



## **User Manual**

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# About This Manual

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The *LabWindows/CVI User Manual* is a reference manual that contains detailed descriptions of LabWindows/CVI features and functionality. To use this manual effectively, you should be familiar with the *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* manual, DOS, and Windows fundamentals.

Begin by reading Chapter 1, *Configuring LabWindows/CVI*, and Chapter 2, *LabWindows/CVI Overview*, because subsequent chapters build on the information in the first two chapters.

## Conventions

---

The following conventions appear in this manual:

»

The » symbol leads you through nested menu items and dialog box options to a final action. The sequence **File»Page Setup»Options** directs you to pull down the **File** menu, select the **Page Setup** item, and select **Options** from the last dialog box.



This icon denotes a note, which alerts you to important information.



This icon denotes a caution, which advises you of precautions to take to avoid injury, data loss, or a system crash.

**bold**

Bold text denotes items that you must select or click on in the software, such as menu items and dialog box options. Bold text also denotes parameter names.

*italic*

Italic text denotes variables, emphasis, a cross-reference, or an introduction to a key concept. This font also denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.

`monospace`

Text in this font denotes text or characters that you should enter from the keyboard, sections of code, programming examples, and syntax examples. This font is also used for the proper names of disk drives, paths, directories, programs, subprograms, subroutines, device names, functions, operations, variables, filenames and extensions, and code excerpts.

**`monospace bold`**

Bold text in this font denotes the messages and responses that the computer automatically prints to the screen. This font also emphasizes lines of code that are different from the other examples.

*monospace italic*

Italic text in this font denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.

# LabWindows/CVI Documentation Set

---

## Standard Documentation Set

You should begin by reading *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI*, which gives you a hands-on introduction to LabWindows/CVI. This manual shows you how to develop applications in LabWindows/CVI.

The *LabWindows/CVI User Manual* is a reference manual that describes the features and functionality of LabWindows/CVI.

The *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* describes how to create instrument drivers for the LabWindows/CVI Instrument Library. This manual assumes that you are familiar with the material presented in *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* and the *LabWindows/CVI User Manual*.

The *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* contains information to help you develop programs in LabWindows/CVI. This manual assumes that you are familiar with DOS, Windows fundamentals, and with the material presented in *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* and the *LabWindows/CVI User Manual*.

The *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* is a reference help file that contains comprehensive information on LabWindows/CVI library functions.

## Related Documentation

The *NI-488.2 Function Reference Manual for DOS/Windows*, the *NI-488.2M Function Reference Manual for Windows*, and the *NI-488.2M Software Reference Manual* describe functions you can use to program National Instruments GPIB interfaces. These manuals are distributed with National Instruments GPIB interface products.

The *NI-DAQ User Manual for PC Compatibles* and the *NI-DAQ Function Reference Manual for PC Compatibles* describe functions you can use to program National Instruments data acquisition boards. These manuals are distributed with National Instruments data acquisition boards.

The *NI-VXI User Manual* and the *NI-VXI Programmer Reference Manual* describe functions you can use to program National Instruments VXI controllers. This manual is distributed with National Instruments VXI controllers for LabWindows/CVI VXI Development System users.

---

# Configuring LabWindows/CVI

This chapter describes special options that override some of the configuration defaults established during the LabWindows/CVI installation or through the configuration dialog boxes within the environment.

These options inform LabWindows/CVI where to find system files, where to place temporary files, and so on. You might not need to set any of these options.

*Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* contains installation instructions for LabWindows/CVI and a hands-on tutorial. It is a good idea to be familiar with the material in *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* before you read this manual.

## LabWindows/CVI Startup Options

---

You can append certain options to the `cvl` command line, separating various parameters by spaces. The valid startup options appear in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1.** LabWindows/CVI Startup Options

Option	Purpose
<filename>	LabWindows/CVI automatically loads the file at startup. The file can be any of the types available under the <b>File»Open</b> command in LabWindows/CVI.
-run	This option automatically invokes the <b>Debug</b> command from the <b>Run</b> menu of LabWindows/CVI.
-run_then_exit	This option automatically invokes <b>Run»Debug</b> and then automatically invokes <b>File»Exit LabWindows/CVI</b> when the project terminates. This option also suppresses the LabWindows/CVI startup screen and Project window.

**Table 1-1.** LabWindows/CVI Startup Options (Continued)

Option	Purpose
-newproject	LabWindows/CVI starts with an empty Project window.
-p <i>ProcessID</i>	LabWindows/CVI attaches to the process that <i>ProcessID</i> identifies. When the process subsequently loads DLLs, LabWindows/CVI can debug them if you created them in LabWindows/CVI for debugging. You can express <i>ProcessID</i> as a decimal number or as a hexadecimal number that you precede with 0x.

## How to Set the Configuration Options

---

LabWindows/CVI Development Environment Configuration Options are under the following key, where [version] is the version of the LabWindows/CVI Development Environment:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\National Instruments\CVI\[version]
```

For example, use the following key to set the configuration options for the LabWindows/CVI 5.5 Development Environment:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\National Instruments\CVI\5.5
```

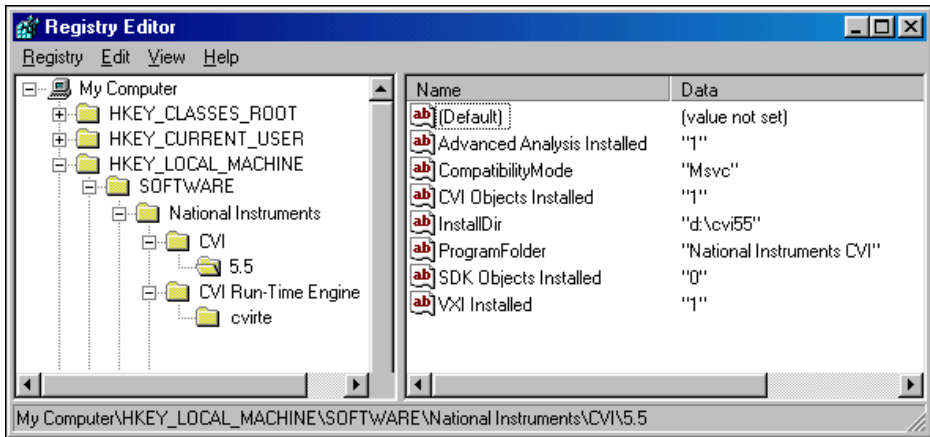
LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine configuration options are under the following key:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\National Instruments\
CVI Run-Time Engine\cvirte
```

Your programs, when you run them from the environment or standalone, use the Run-Time Engine configuration options.



A configuration string value is associated with each option, as shown in Figure 1-1.



**Figure 1-1.** Registry for Windows

You do not have to include an unused configuration string in the Registry.

You must specify an absolute pathname, including a drive letter, for configuration strings that take a directory name.

## Option Descriptions

When configuring LabWindows/CVI, you can make changes to the directory options, date and time options, timer options, and the font options.

### Directory Options

This section contains detailed descriptions of the directory options available in LabWindows/CVI.

#### **cvidir**

You have to set the `cvidir` option only if the subdirectories that LabWindows/CVI requires, shown in Table 1-2, are not in the directory that contains the LabWindows/CVI executable. The `cvidir` option specifies the directory that contains the subdirectories.

**Table 1-2.** Subdirectories that LabWindows/CVI Requires

Name of Directory	Contents
bin	Resource files ( <code>cvi.rsc</code> , <code>cvimsgs.txt</code> ), National Instruments function panels ( <code>.lfp</code> files), National Instruments libraries ( <code>.obj</code> and <code>.lib</code> ).
font	Font description files.
include	C header files for National Instruments libraries.
sdk	Windows SDK.

If you do not specify a directory, LabWindows/CVI assumes that the directory that contains the executable file `cvi.exe` or `cvi` also contains the directories in Table 1-2.

## tmpdir

`tmpdir` sets the location for temporary files.

If you do not specify a directory, LabWindows/CVI uses the value of the environment variable `TMP`. If the value of `TMP` is not defined or is invalid, LabWindows/CVI uses the value of the environment variable `TEMP`. If the value of `TEMP` is not defined or is invalid, LabWindows/CVI uses the directory that contains `cvi.exe`.

If you run LabWindows/CVI across a network, you must set `tmpdir` to one of your local directories.

## Date and Time Option—DSTRules

The `DSTRules` option allows you to specify the portions of the year daylight savings time is in effect in your area. This affects ANSI C Library functions such as `mktime` and `localtime`. Refer to the *Time and Date Functions* section in the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more information.

## Timer Options—useDefaultTimer

If you set the `useDefaultTimer` option to `True`, LabWindows/CVI uses the default Windows timer to implement the LabWindows/CVI timing related functions, such as `Timer` and `Delay`. The default Windows timer provides a resolution of 55 ms under Windows 98/95, and 10 ms under Windows 2000/NT.

If you set `useDefaultTimer` to `False` under Windows 98/95, LabWindows/CVI uses the Windows multimedia library timer. The multimedia library timer provides a resolution of 1 ms.

If you set `useDefaultTimer` to `False` under Windows 2000/NT, LabWindows/CVI attempts to use the performance counter timer. The performance counter timer provides a resolution of 1 ms. If the performance counter timer is not available, LabWindows/CVI uses the multimedia library timer, which provides a resolution of 1 ms.

The default value for `useDefaultTimer` is `False`.

## Font Options

Under Windows, LabWindows/CVI provides configuration options to set the fonts that LabWindows/CVI uses in dialog boxes.

### DialogFontName

`DialogFontName` specifies the font LabWindows/CVI uses in dialog boxes and the built-in pop-up panels, as in the following example: `DialogFontName=Courier`.

### DialogFontSize

`DialogFontSize` specifies the font size LabWindows/CVI uses in dialog boxes and the built-in pop-up panels, as in the following example: `DialogFontSize=30`.

### DialogFontBold

`DialogFontBold` specifies whether the font LabWindows/CVI uses in dialog boxes and the built-in pop-up panels is bold, as in the following example: `DialogFontBold=Yes`.

---

# LabWindows/CVI Overview

This chapter describes the components of LabWindows/CVI, including the LabWindows/CVI environment and how to create applications with LabWindows/CVI.

## Components of LabWindows/CVI

---

LabWindows/CVI is a programming environment for developing instrument control, automated test, and data acquisition applications in ANSI C.

LabWindows/CVI has the following components.

- Standard libraries and interactive function panels for the following components:
  - GPIB
  - RS-232
  - VISA (Virtual Instrument Software Architecture)
  - Data acquisition (distributed with National Instruments PC-based data acquisition boards)
  - Data analysis
  - Transport Control Protocol (TCP)
  - DataSocket
  - Windows Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) communication
  - File I/O
  - Data formatting
  - ANSI C
- A graphical User Interface Editor, CodeBuilder Wizard, and library for building, displaying, and controlling a graphical user interface
- A wizard and library for controlling ActiveX Automation servers
- A wizard and library for creating IVI instrument drivers, which are highly structured *VXIplug&play*-compatible instrument drivers that use an attribute model to enable advanced features, such as state-caching, simulation, and compatibility with generic instrument classes

- A set of instrument drivers that contains high-level functions and interactive function panels for controlling specific instruments
- A development environment with windows to manage projects and source code with complete editing, debugging, and user-protection features

An additional library, the Advanced Analysis Library, is available for LabWindows/CVI. This library is an optional package that you can order from National Instruments.

## Standard Libraries

LabWindows/CVI includes the following standard libraries:

- User Interface Library
- Analysis Library
- Easy I/O for DAQ Library
- Data Acquisition Library
- GPIB-488/488.2 Library
- RS-232 Library
- VISA Library
- IVI Library
- TCP Library
- DataSocket Library
- DDE Library
- ActiveX Automation Library
- Formatting and I/O Library
- Utility Library
- ANSI C Library

The functions that make up these libraries can be executed in the LabWindows/CVI environment. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more information or refer to the following manuals:

- *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual* or *NI-488.2M Software Reference Manual*
- *NI-VISA User Manual* (available upon request)
- *NI-VISA Programmer Reference Manual* (available upon request)

## User Interface Library

You can use the User Interface Library in conjunction with the User Interface Editor in the LabWindows/CVI environment. In the User Interface Editor, you can create command bars, pull-down menus, dialog boxes, controls, graphs, and strip charts. Then you can save these objects to a User Interface Resource (.uir) file. The functions in the User Interface Library allow you to load these objects from the .uir file, display them, receive user input from them, and display program data and results in them. The User Interface Library also has functions for programmatic creation of a graphical user interface. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more information on the User Interface Library and Editor.

## Easy I/O for DAQ Library

The Easy I/O for DAQ Library contains functions that make writing simple DAQ programs easier than if you use the Data Acquisition Library. Although the function panels for the Easy I/O for DAQ Library come with LabWindows/CVI, the library requires the NI-DAQ DLL, which comes with your National Instruments data acquisition board. The function panel help for the Easy I/O for DAQ Library describes the library functions.

## Data Acquisition Library

The Data Acquisition Library, which comes with National Instruments data acquisition boards, contains high-level functions for controlling National Instruments plug-in data acquisition boards. The *NI-DAQ Function Reference Manual for PC Compatibles*, distributed with National Instruments data acquisition boards, describes the library functions.

## VISA Library

The VISA Library gives VXI and GPIB software developers, particularly instrument driver developers, a single interface library for controlling VXI, GPIB, RS-232, and other types of instruments. The *NI-VISA Programmer Reference Manual*, available upon request, describes the functions.

## IVI Library

The IVI (Intelligent Virtual Instruments) Library gives developers a structured framework for creating *VXIplug&play* instrument drivers with advanced features, such as state caching, simulation, and compatibility with generic instrument classes. The Create IVI Instrument Driver Wizard supplements the library, automatically creating the skeleton of an IVI driver for you that includes source code and function panels. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on how to create IVI drivers.

## Instrument Library

The Instrument Library is a set of instrument drivers that each contain high-level C functions for controlling a specific GPIB, RS-232, or VXI instrument. The high-level functions encapsulate the low-level steps necessary to control the instrument and read data. You can use instrument drivers in the environment in the same way you use the other LabWindows/CVI libraries.

## LabWindows/CVI Environment

The LabWindows/CVI environment makes it easy for you to create and test applications that use the LabWindows/CVI libraries. The environment is a combination editor, compiler, and debugger with extensive run-time checking. A special feature called a *function panel* makes the task of developing programs much easier. Using a function panel, you can execute a LabWindows/CVI library function interactively and generate code that calls the function. Function panels also contain online help information for the functions and function parameters. You can build, execute, test, and debug the source code for your application in the LabWindows/CVI environment.

The LabWindows/CVI environment also has a User Interface Editor for creating a graphical user interface for your application programs. You can control the user interface using functions in the User Interface Library.

Also, you can use the LabWindows/CVI environment to create instrument drivers.

The LabWindows/CVI environment has the following windows, each with its own menu bar.

- **Project window**—This window appears when you start LabWindows/CVI. You use this window to open, edit, build, run, and save application project (.prj) files. A project file is a list of files your application uses. Chapter 3, *Project Window*, describes the Project window in detail.
- **User Interface Editor windows**—You use these windows to build graphics-mode command bars, pull-down menus, dialog boxes, controls, graphs, and strip charts and save them to User Interface Resource (.uir) files. Chapter 4, *User Interface Editor Window*, describes the User Interface Editor window in detail.
- **Source windows**—You use these windows to create, edit, run, debug, and save source code. These windows include an optional toolbar to give you quick access to commands you use frequently. Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, describes the Source window in detail.
- **Interactive Execution window**—You use this window to execute selected portions of code. You do not have to have a complete program in the Interactive Execution window, as is the case in a Source window. For instance, you can execute variable declarations and assignment statements in C without declaring a main function. Refer to Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more information on the Interactive Execution window.

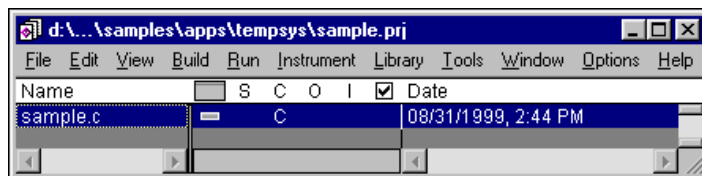
- **Function Panels**—You use these windows to interactively execute library functions and insert code into the Source window. These windows include an optional toolbar to give you quick access to commands you use frequently. Chapter 6, *Using Function Panels*, describes the Function Panel window in detail.
- **Variables, Array Display, String Display, and Watch windows**—You use these windows for debugging programs. Chapter 7, *Variables and Watch Windows*, and Chapter 8, *Array and String Display Windows*, describe these windows in detail.
- **Function Tree Editor windows**—You use these windows to build the tree structure of function panel files. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on Function Tree Editor windows.
- **Function Panel Editor windows**—You use these windows to build function panels. These windows include an optional toolbar to give you quick access to commands you use frequently. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on Function Panel Editor windows.
- **Function Tree Help Editor and Function Panel Help Editor windows**—You use these windows to add online help to function panels. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on these windows.

You develop applications in the LabWindows/CVI environment using the ANSI C programming language. For information on the LabWindows/CVI compiler/linker and how to use the LabWindows/CVI libraries with other compilers and linkers, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues* in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

## How to Create Applications with LabWindows/CVI

Use LabWindows/CVI as a text editor in which to enter your entire program. You can greatly simplify application development by using function panels to execute LabWindows/CVI functions and to automatically insert the code into your program. Function panels contain complete online help. Refer to Chapter 6, *Using Function Panels*, for more details.

The Project window contains all the component files of your application. The simplest case is one source file, as shown in Figure 2-1.



**Figure 2-1.** Simple Project Window



A typical project, however, contains multiple code modules and a User Interface Resource file. You can list code modules as source files or compiled files. You can debug source files, and LabWindows/CVI performs run-time error checking when you execute code in source files.

To include compiled files, such as library or object files, in your project, you must compile them with LabWindows/CVI or a compatible external compiler. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues* in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information on compatible external compilers. Compiled files consume less memory and run faster than source files. However, you cannot debug them, and they do not have run-time error checking.

You can mark a source file in the project list to be compiled without debugging to use less memory.

You can strike a balance between initial project start-up time, execution speed, memory consumption, and the ability to debug code modules by varying the types of code modules you list in your project.

## Creating a User Interface

You can create user interface objects (panels, controls, menus) using the User Interface Editor window and save them in a `.uir` file. You can load, display, and modify these objects in your program using the functions in the User Interface Library. Also, you can specify callback functions that LabWindows/CVI calls when events occur on these objects.

The LabWindows/CVI CodeBuilder automatically generates complete C code that compiles and runs based on a user interface (`.uir`) file you create or edit. By choosing certain options presented to you in the **Code** menu, you can produce *skeleton code*. Skeleton code is syntactically and programmatically correct code that can compile and run before you type a single line of code. With the CodeBuilder feature, you save the time of typing standard code you must include in every program, eliminate syntax and typing errors, and maintain an organized source code file with a consistent programming style. For more information, refer to the *CodeBuilder Overview* section of the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help*.

## Creating Standalone Programs and DLLs

With the LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine, you can create standalone executables, dynamic link libraries, and static libraries. Refer to Chapter 4, *Creating and Distributing Standalone Executables and DLLs*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information.

---

# Project Window

This chapter describes the LabWindows/CVI Project window, which controls specific tasks related to organizing and executing application programs.

## Project Window Overview

---

Use the Project window to open, edit, build, run, and save application project (`.prj`) files. A project file is a list of files your application uses. Certain files must be in the list, while others are optional. If you had a project loaded the last time you used LabWindows/CVI, that project appears in the Project window when you start LabWindows/CVI again.

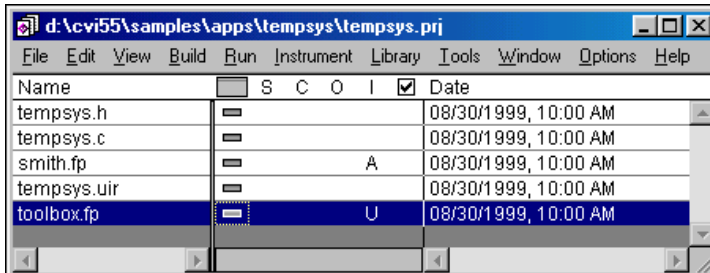
Unless you use the following files as instrument driver program files or load them dynamically using `LoadExternalModule`, you must put them in your project file list.

- Source files your application program uses, ending with `.c`
- Object files your application program uses, ending with `.obj`
- Library files your application program uses, ending with `.lib` (DLL import libraries are in this category.)

The following files are optional in your project file list.

- Header files (`.h`) your application program uses. Listing `.h` files makes it easy to open them for viewing or editing and ensures that the compiler can find them.
- User interface resource (`.uir`) files your application program uses. Listing `.uir` files makes it easy to open them for viewing or editing and ensures that LabWindows/CVI can find them.
- Instrument driver function panel (`.fnp`) files. Listing `.fnp` files lets LabWindows/CVI automatically load instruments when you open the project.
- Instrument driver program files. Listing these files overrides the loading precedence for instrument driver program files. Refer to the [Using Instrument Drivers](#) and [Instrument Menu](#) sections in this chapter for information about instrument driver program files.

Figure 3-1 shows a sample Project window.



**Figure 3-1.** Project Window

You can open .c, .h, and .uir files in the project list by double-clicking directly on the filename. Double-clicking on a .fp filename opens the Select Function Panel dialog box for the instrument driver.

You can use the following icons in the Project window.



The file is currently closed. Double-click on this icon to open the file. If the file is a .fp file, double-clicking opens the Function Tree Editor.



The file is currently open. Double-click on this icon to close the file. If the file is a .fp file, double-clicking hides the Function Tree Editor window, but does not unload the .fp file.



The file has been modified since you last saved it. Double-click on this icon to save the file.



You have modified the file since you last compiled it, or you manually marked it for compilation. Double-click on this icon to compile the file.



This icon applies only to source (.c) files and indicates that you enabled the **Compile Without Debugging** option. If this option is enabled, LabWindows/CVI compiles the source file without debugging the information. You can use this option to reduce the amount of memory used when building a project. Double-click on this icon to toggle the option.



The file is associated with a loaded instrument driver.



This icon indicates that the .fp file is loaded into the **Instrument** menu and signifies that it is attached to or Associated with a program file.



This icon indicates that the .fpx file is loaded into the **Instrument** menu and signifies that it is unattached to any program file. When you double-click on this icon, LabWindows/CVI tries to attach a program file.

If no icon appears in the **I** column next to a .fpx file, the .fpx file is not loaded into memory. When you double-click on the **U** icon, LabWindows/CVI tries to load the .fpx file into memory and attach the instrument driver program file.



This icon is displayed for a file if the file is in the source code control system project specified for the current LabWindows/CVI project. The box contains a checkmark if the file is currently checked out from the source code control system.

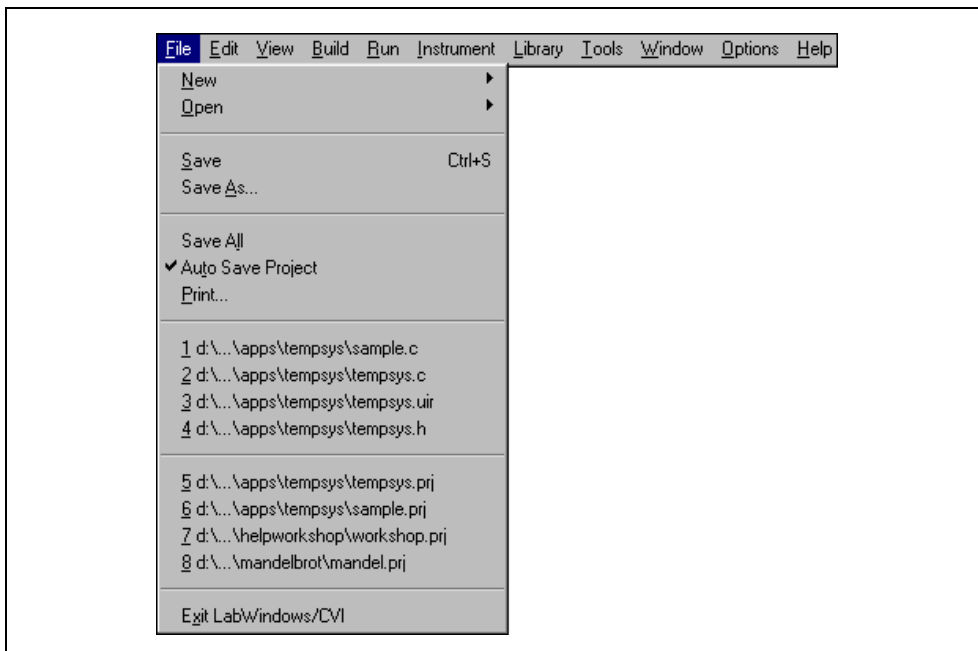
## Selecting Multiple Files in the Project Window

You can execute commands on multiple files in the project by selecting multiple files and then executing the command through its hot key or menu item. You can select multiple files in the source window by using one or more of the following methods:

- <Ctrl-Left-Click>—The file you clicked on is added to the currently selected files.
- <Shift-Left-Click>—All of the files between the last selected file and the file you clicked on are added to the currently selected files.
- <Ctrl-Shift-A>—Selects all of the files in the project.
- <Shift-Down Arrow>—Adds the file below the currently selected file in the list of selected files.
- <Shift-Up Arrow>—Adds the file above the currently selected file in the list of selected files.

## File Menu

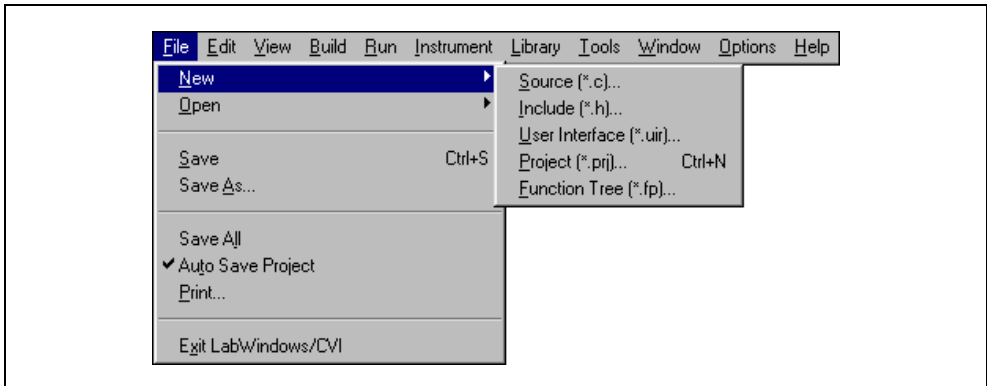
This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **File** menu, as shown in Figure 3-2.



**Figure 3-2.** File Menu

## New

The **New** command has a submenu, as shown in Figure 3-3.



**Figure 3-3.** New Command Submenu

Use the **New** command to open various types of new empty windows.

If you choose **Source** or **Include**, a new Source window appears in which you can create a new `.c` or `.h` file.

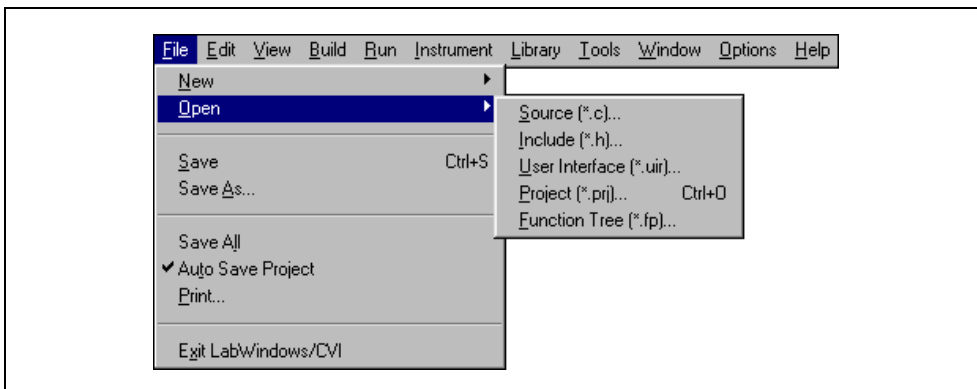
If you choose **User Interface**, a new User Interface Editor window appears in which you can create a new `.uir` file. Refer to Chapter 4, [User Interface Editor Window](#), for more information about User Interface Editor windows.

If you choose **Project**, a dialog box appears with a message that asks if you want to unload the current project. You can work with only one project at a time. If you select **Yes**, a new Project window appears. You are prompted to save any modified files in the old project. You are also prompted to save project options. The [Options Menu](#) section later in this chapter describes these options.

If you choose **Function Tree**, a new Function Tree Editor window appears in which you can create a new `.fp` file. Refer to Chapter 5, *Function Tree Editor*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information about Function Tree Editor windows.

## Open

The **Open** command has a submenu, as shown in Figure 3-4.



**Figure 3-4.** Open Command

Use the **Open** command to open various types of user specified files. When you select **Open**, a dialog box appears, prompting you for a filename to load into a new window. One feature of this dialog box is the Directories ring, which is at the top of the dialog box. When activated, this ring displays a list of directories from which you have opened files previously.

If you choose **Source** or **Include**, a Source window appears with your specified .c or .h file.

If you choose **User Interface**, a User Interface Editor window appears with your specified .uir file.

If you choose **Project**, a Project window appears with your specified .prj file. LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save any modified files in the old project.

If you choose **Function Tree**, a new Function Tree Editor window appears with your specified .fp file. You cannot use this command to load instrument modules. You load instrument modules from the **Instrument** menu.

## Save

Use the **Save** command to write the project (.prj) file to disk. If you want to append a different extension, type it in after the filename. If you do not want to append any extension, enter a period after the filename.

## Save As

Use the **Save As** command to write the project file to disk using a new name you specify. The **Save As** command changes the name on the Project window title bar to the new name you specified. If you want to append an extension other than `.prj`, type it in after the filename. If you do not want to append any extension, enter a period after the filename.

## Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

## Auto Save Project

If you enable the **Auto Save Project** command, LabWindows/CVI automatically saves your project files. When you load a project, the **Auto Save Project** command is initially enabled unless the project file is read only on disk. If you enable the command, LabWindows/CVI automatically saves the project file whenever the project contains significant new or modified information. If you disable this command, the project file is saved only in the following cases:

- When you execute the **Save**, **Save As**, or **Save All** command from the **File** menu.
- When you unload the project or exit LabWindows/CVI. LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save the file in this case.

Notice that if you disable the **Auto Save Project** command, LabWindows/CVI does not save the project file when you start running a program, even if you set the **Save Changes before Running** option in the Run Options dialog box to Always or Ask.

## Print

The **Print** command opens a list of all the printable files in the project. You can select the files you want to print.

## Most Recently Closed Files

For your reference, two lists appear in the **File** menu.

- A list of the four most recently closed files, other than project files
- A list of the four most recently closed project files

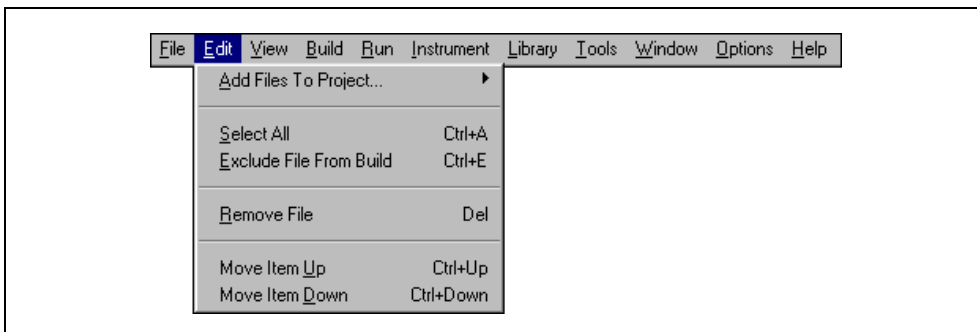
## Exit LabWindows/CVI

Use the **Exit LabWindows/CVI** command to close the current LabWindows/CVI session. If you have modified any open files since the last save, or if any windows contain unnamed files, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save them.



## Edit Menu

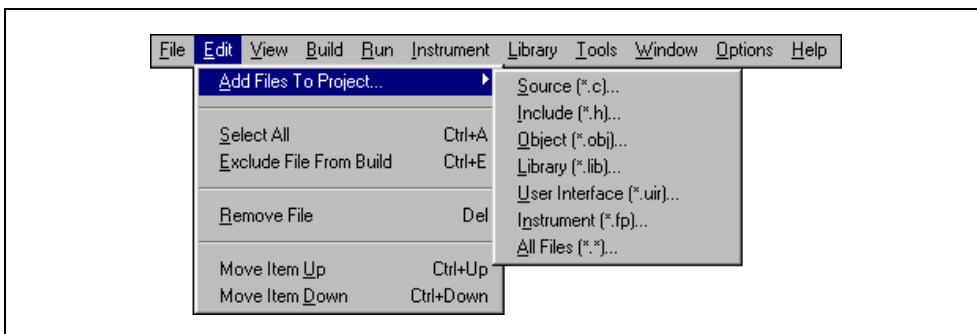
This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Edit** menu, as shown in Figure 3-5.



**Figure 3-5.** Edit Menu

## Add Files to Project

The **Add Files to Project** command has a submenu, as shown in Figure 3-6.



**Figure 3-6.** Add Files to Project Command Submenu

Use the **Add Files to Project** item to add any type of file to the project list. Choose any one of the file types listed in the menu to invoke a dialog box and then select a file from the dialog box.

Use the **Source**, **Object**, and **Library** items to add code modules to your project. Refer to Chapter 2, *Using Loadable Compiled Modules*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for information about using object, library, and DLL files in LabWindows/CVI.

An import library (.lib) file must accompany each DLL. If you want to use a DLL in your project, you must list the import library rather than the DLL. You cannot add DLL and DLL path (.pth) files to the project. If you load a project that was created in Windows 3.1 and contains .dll or .pth files, LabWindows/CVI displays a warning message and excludes the files.

For more detailed information on using DLLs in LabWindows/CVI, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

Use the **Include** item to add header files to your project. It is a good idea to list header files in your project because this makes access to you header files much easier.

Use the **User Interface** item to add .uir files to your project. You can list .uir files in your project to make access to the files easier.

Use the **Instrument** command to add instrument drivers to your project. Instrument drivers that LabWindows/CVI loads through the project remain in memory while the project is open.

Use the **All Files** command to add any file to your project. The **All Files** command brings up the Add Files to Project dialog box and lists all files available in the selected directory.

## Select All

Use the **Select All** command to select all of the files in the project. You select specific files using the keyboard and mouse as described in the [Selecting Multiple Files in the Project Window](#) section earlier in this chapter.

## Exclude File from Build/Include File in Build

The **Exclude File from Build** command excludes the highlighted code module file from the build. This command does not apply to .h, .fp, or .uir files. Excluded files appear in a different color in the Build window. LabWindows/CVI does not compile or link them into the project. When you exclude a file, the command toggles to **Include File in Build** so you can include the file in the build again.

## Remove File

Use the **Remove File** command to remove the selected files from the project list.

## Move Item Up

Use the **Move Item Up** command to move the selected files up one line in the project list. To activate this menu item, select **No Sorting** from the **View** menu.

## Move Item Down

Use the **Move Item Down** command to move the selected files down one line in the project list. To activate this menu item, select **No Sorting** from the **View** menu.

## View Menu

---

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **View** menu, as shown in Figure 3-7.

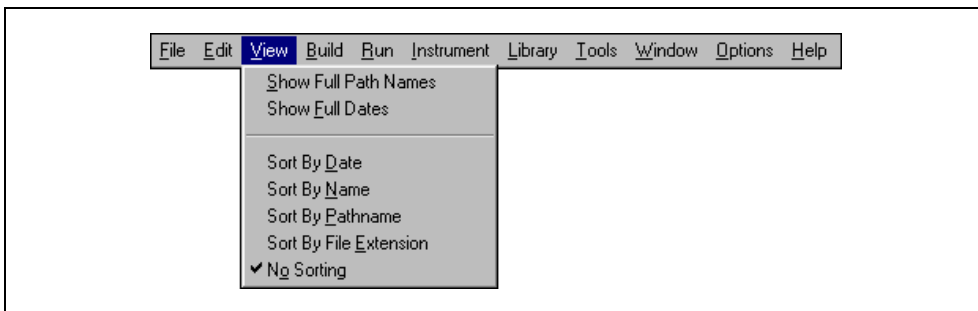


Figure 3-7. View Menu

### Show Full Path Names

Use this command to toggle between displaying the project list with full pathnames and displaying the project list with simple base filenames.

### Show Full Dates

Use this command to toggle between displaying the project list with short file dates, such as 06/15/93, and full file dates, such as Tue, Jun 15, 1993.

### Sort By Date

If you sort by date, the project list appears in chronological order.

### Sort By Name

If you sort by name, the project list appears in alphabetical order by filename.

### Sort By Pathname

If you sort by pathname, the project list appears in alphabetical order by directory pathname.

## Sort By File Extension

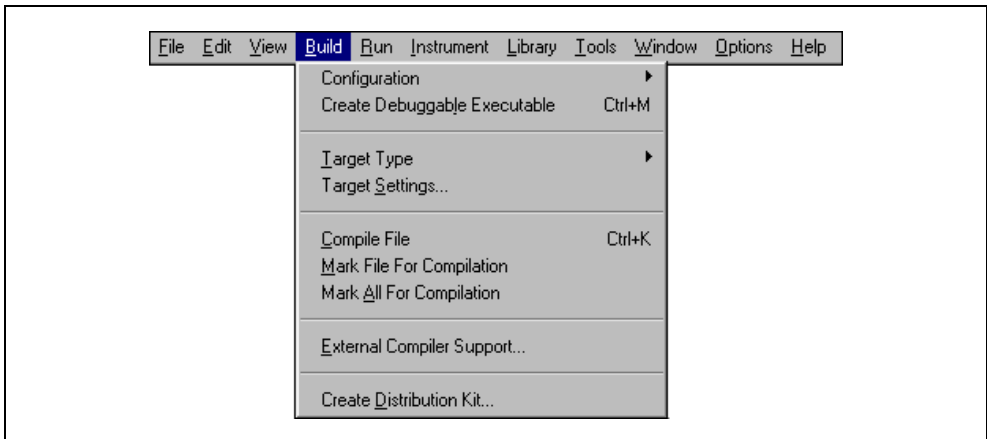
If you sort by file extension, the project list appears in alphabetical order by file extension.

## No Sorting

If you choose **No Sorting**, you can list your project files in any order by using the **Move Item Up** and **Move Item Down** items in the **Edit** menu.

## Build Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Build** menu, as shown in Figure 3-8. Use commands in the **Build** menu for compiling files, building and linking projects, marking files for compilation, and creating application files.



**Figure 3-8.** Build Menu

## Configuration

The **Configuration** item opens a submenu in which you select the active configuration for your project. Set the configuration to **Debug** when you are debugging your executable or DLL. Set the configuration to **Release** when you are ready to build a release (standalone) version of your executable, DLL, or static library.



**Note** You can set the names of the target executable, DLL, or library files for each configuration using the **Target Settings** menu item.

When the **Release** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu, source modules execute faster, but you sacrifice the ability to set breakpoints or to use the Variables window. Also, you have no protection from run-time memory errors such as using bad pointers, over-indexing arrays, passing incorrect array sizes, and so on.

Selecting **Release** from the Configuration submenu changes the **Create** command to **Create Release Executable**, **Create Release Dynamic Link Library**, or **Create Release Static Library**, depending on the **Target Type** setting.

- The **Create Release Executable** menu item is displayed if the **Release** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu and the **Executable** item is checked in the **Target Type** submenu.

Use this menu item to compile and build an executable without debugging information. This command ignores the value of the **Debugging level** control on the Build Options dialog box.

You can set the executable's filename, as well as other executable settings, using the Target Settings dialog box displayed by the **Target Settings** menu item. You can set other compile and run options using the menu items in the **Options** menu of the Project window.

- The **Create Release Dynamic Link Library** menu item is displayed if the **Release** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu and the **Dynamic Link Library** item is checked in the **Target Type** submenu.

Use this menu item to compile and build a DLL without debugging information. This command ignores the value of the **Debugging level** control on the Build Options dialog box.

You can set the filename of the DLL, as well as other DLL settings, using the Target Settings dialog box displayed by the **Target Settings** menu item. You can set other compile and run options using the menu items in the **Options** menu of the Project window.

This command also generates a DLL import library for the DLL.

- The **Create Static Library** menu item is displayed if the **Release** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu and the **Static Library** item is checked in the **Target Type** submenu.

Use this menu item to compile and build a static library without debugging information. This command ignores the value of the **Debugging level** control on the Build Options dialog box.

You can set the filename of the static library, as well as other static library settings, using the Target Settings dialog box displayed by the **Target Settings** menu item. You can set other compile and run options using the menu items in the **Options** menu of the Project window.



**Note** If you include a `.lib` file in a static library project, LabWindows/CVI includes all object modules from the `.lib` in the static library. This differs from creating an executable or DLL, in which LabWindows/CVI includes only the `.lib` modules that other modules in the project reference. In addition, LabWindows/CVI reports an error if you attempt to build a static library when you have a DLL import library in your project.

Selecting **Debug** from the **Configuration** submenu changes the **Create** command to **Create Debuggable Executable** or **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library**, depending on the **Target Type** setting.



**Note** The **Debug** and **Execute** commands in the **Run** menu start debugging or executing the target file for the current configuration.

- The **Create Debuggable Executable** menu item is displayed if the **Debug** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu and the **Executable** item is checked in the **Target Type** submenu.

Use this menu item to compile and build an executable with debugging information. Use the **Debugging level** control on the Build Options dialog box to set the amount of debugging information generated for the executable. For information on the **Debugging level** control settings, refer to the **Build Options** section in this chapter. To debug the executable created with this command, use the **Debug** menu item in the **Run** menu of a Project, Source, or Variables window.

You can set the executable's filename, as well as other executable settings, using the Target Settings dialog box displayed by the **Target Settings** menu item. You can set other compile and run options using the menu items in the **Options** menu of the Project window.

- The **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library** menu item is displayed if the **Debug** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu and the **Dynamic Link Library** item is checked in the **Target Type** submenu.

Use this menu item to compile and build a DLL with debugging information. Use the **Debugging level** control on the Build Options dialog box to set the amount of debugging information generated for the executable. For information on the **Debugging level** control settings, refer to the **Build Options** section in this chapter. To debug the DLL created with this command, use the **Debug** menu item in the **Run** menu of a Project, Source, or Variables window.

You can set the DLL's filename, as well as other DLL settings, using the Target Settings dialog box displayed by the **Target Settings** menu item. You can set other compile and run options using the menu items in the **Options** menu of the Project window.

The **Debug** command also generates a DLL import library for the DLL. For information on debugging DLLs, refer to the [Debugging DLLs](#) section later in this chapter.

## Target Type

The **Target Type** item opens a submenu in which you select the target type for your project. The target type determines what type of file you create when you execute the **Create** command that appears below **Configuration** in the **Build** menu. The name of the **Create** command that appears below **Configuration** in the **Build** menu changes depending on the target type and configuration you select. The target types that you can select are:

- Executable
- Dynamic Link Library
- Static Library

When you select anything other than **Executable**, the **Debug** command in the **Run** menu dims. If you select **Dynamic Link Library**, you can use the **Select External Process** command in the **Run** menu to specify an external program that uses the DLL. When you do this, the **Run** command changes to **Run xxx.exe**, where *xxx.exe* is the name of the program you specify.

## Target Settings

The **Target Settings** item brings up the Target Settings dialog box. The Target Settings dialog box contains different controls based on the item checked in **Target Type** menu item.

When you set the **Target Type** to **Executable** and select **Build»Target Settings**, the Target Settings dialog box has the following options:

- **Application File**—The name of the executable files for the debug and release versions of your program. Changing the value of the ring control displays the filename and allows you to edit the filename for the debug and release configurations. You can use the **Browse** button to select an existing filename.
- **Application Title**—A descriptive title for your program. This title appears in the **Start** menu of Windows if you create a distribution kit using the **Create Distribution Kit** command in the **Build** menu. The operating system registers it when a user starts the application.
- **Application Icon File**—A file that contains a descriptive graphical icon for your program. You can double-click on the icon in the Windows shell to start your executable. You can use the **Browse** button to select an existing icon file.
- **Icon**—The graphical representation of the **Application Icon File**. You can double-click on this control to browse for an icon file on disk. The sample program `samples\apps\iconedit.exe` ships with LabWindows/CVI so that you can create your own icon files.
- **Create Console Application**—If you leave this box unchecked, your executable is created as a Windows GUI application. If you check this box, your executable is created as a console application. Console applications create a Windows console window (Command Prompt or MS-DOS Prompt) and default the standard I/O port to the console.

Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for `SetStdioPort` for information on standard I/O port options. Create a console application if you want to be able to redirect the standard input or output of your program.

- **Instrument Driver Support Only**—If you check this box, your project does not link to the entire set of LabWindows/CVI libraries but to a smaller set of functions. Standalone executables and DLLs you create when the **Instrument Driver Support Only** command is enabled do not use the LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine DLL, `cvirte.dll`. Instead, they use `instrsup.dll`, which is much smaller. This command is particularly useful for creating instrument driver DLLs. It allows other applications to use instrument driver DLLs without having to load the large LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine DLL.

If you use a standalone compiler and want to use `instrsup.dll`, include `cvi\extlib\instrsup.lib` in your external compiler project instead of `cvirt.lib` and `cvisupp.lib`. Remember that when you use an external compiler, you link to that compiler's ANSI C library.

`instrsup.dll` contains functions from the following libraries:

- Formatting and I/O Library (Except `ArrayToFile` and `FileToArray`)
- RS-232 Library
- Utility Library (selected functions only; refer to the *Utility Library Functions* discussion later in this section)
- ANSI C Library

Your project also can link to the following libraries:

- Analysis or Advanced Analysis Library
- GPIB Library
- VXI Library
- VISA Library
- IVI Library
- Easy I/O for DAQ Library
- Data Acquisition Library

If you use a standalone compiler and want to use any of these libraries, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

If you use the **Create Distribution Kit** command on a project that you link for instrument driver support only, LabWindows/CVI automatically includes `instrsup.dll` in the distribution kit and disables the option to distribute the full LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine.



The following Utility Library functions are in `instrsup.dll`.

- Beep
- DateStr
- Delay
- SyncWait
- Timer
- TimeStr
- RoundRealToNearestInteger
- TruncateRealNumber
- InStandaloneExecutable
- CVIRTEHasBeenDetached

`instrsup.dll` does not support the Standard Input/Output window. Functions such as `FmtOut` or `ScanIn` return errors when you use them with `instrsup.dll`.

All the functions in `instrsup.dll` are multithread safe.

- **Version Info**—When you click on this button, the Version Info dialog box appears. You can enter version information for the executable file in this dialog box. LabWindows/CVI saves the version information in the executable as a standard Windows version resource. You can obtain the information from the executable by using the Windows SDK functions `GetFileVersionInfo` and `GetFileVersionInfoSize`.

In the Version Info dialog box, the entries for **File Version** and **Product Version** must be in the form:

`n, n, n, n`

where *n* is a number from 0 to 255

- **Using LoadExternalModule**—The following options assist you in loading external modules.
  - **Add Files to Executable**—This button lets you select additional module files you want to link into the **Application File**. These are modules that your project files do not directly reference but that are referenced by modules you load at runtime by calling `LoadExternalModule`.
 

If you select **Add Files to Executable** to force a Windows SDK import library into your project, your executable may not start or load. The Windows SDK import libraries included in LabWindows/CVI 5.5 contain functions that are not present on all versions of windows. Therefore, forcing an entire import library into your executable may cause it to fail to load or start because it is referencing a function that is not available in the system DLL on your system.
  - **Help**—This button describes the use of `LoadExternalModule` in an executable and the **Add Files to Executable** button.

- **OK**—This button accepts the current inputs and closes the dialog box.
- **Cancel**—This button cancels the operation and removes the dialog box.

When you set the **Target Type** to **Dynamic Link Library** and select **Build»Target Settings**, the Target Settings dialog box has the following options:

- **DLL File**—The name of the DLL files for the debug and release versions of your program. Changing the value of the ring control allows you to edit the filename for the debug and release configurations. You can use the **Browse** button to select an existing filename.
- **Import Library Base Name**—Normally, the name of the import library is the same as the name of the DLL except that the extension is `.lib`. There might be some cases, however, where you want to use a different name. For example, you might want to append `_32` to the name of your DLL to distinguish it as a 32-bit DLL but not append it to the import library name. This is, in fact, the convention used for *VXIplug&play* instrument driver DLLs. If you want to enter a different name for the import library, deselect the **Use Default** option. Enter a name without any directory names.
- **Where to Copy DLL**—Use this ring control to instruct LabWindows/CVI to copy the DLL to a different directory after creating it. Your choices are the following:
  - Do not copy
  - Windows System directory
  - *VXIplug&play* directory (the `bin` directory under the *VXIplug&play* framework directory)
- **Instrument Driver Support Only**—If you check this box, your project does not link to the entire set of LabWindows/CVI libraries but to a smaller set of functions. Standalone executables and DLLs you create when the **Instrument Driver Support Only** command is enabled do not use the LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine DLL, `cvirte.dll`. Instead, they use `instrsup.dll`, which is much smaller. This command is particularly useful for creating instrument driver DLLs. It allows other applications to use instrument driver DLLs without having to load the large LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine DLL. If you use a standalone compiler and want to use `instrsup.dll`, include `cvi\extlib\instrsup.lib` in your external compiler project instead of `cvirt.lib` and `cvisupp.lib`. Remember that when you use an external compiler, you link to that compiler's ANSI C library.  
`instrsup.dll` contains functions from the following libraries:
  - Formatting and I/O Library
  - RS-232 Library
  - Utility Library (selected functions only; refer to the *Utility Library Functions* discussion later in this section)
  - ANSI C

Your project also can link to the following libraries:

- Analysis or Advanced Analysis Library
- GPIB Library
- VXI Library
- VISA Library
- IVI Library
- Easy I/O for DAQ Library
- Data Acquisition Library

If you use a standalone compiler and want to use any of these libraries, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

If you use the **Create Distribution Kit** command on a project that you link for instrument driver support only, LabWindows/CVI automatically includes `instrsup.dll` in the distribution kit and disables the option to distribute the full LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine.

The following Utility Library functions are in `instrsup.dll`.

- Beep
- DateStr
- Delay
- SyncWait
- Timer
- TimeStr
- RoundRealToNearestInteger
- TruncateRealNumber
- InStandaloneExecutable
- CVIRTEHasBeenDetached

`instrsup.dll` does not support the Standard Input/Output window. Functions such as `FmtOut` or `ScanIn` return errors when you use them with `instrsup.dll`.

All the functions in `instrsup.dll` are multithread safe.

- **Version Info**—When you click on this button, the Version Info dialog box appears. You can enter version information for the DLL in this dialog box. LabWindows/CVI saves the version information in the DLL as a standard Windows version resource. You can obtain the information from the DLL by using the Windows SDK functions `GetFileVersionInfo` and `GetFileVersionInfoSize`.

In the Version Info dialog box, **File Version** and **Product Version** must be in the form:

`n, n, n, n`

where *n* is a number from 0 to 255

- **Import Library Choices**—This button lets you choose whether to create a DLL import library for each of the compatible external compilers or to create one only for the current compatible compiler. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*. It also lets you choose to create the import libraries in the *VXIplug&play* subdirectories instead of the directory of the DLL.

If you choose to use the DLL directory and create an import library for each compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the files in subdirectories named `msvc`, `borland`, `watcom`, and `symantec`. LabWindows/CVI also creates the library for the current compatible compiler in the directory of the DLL. If you choose to create an import library only for the current compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the file in the directory of the DLL.

If you choose to use the *VXIplug&play* directories and create an import library for each compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the files in the subdirectories `msc`, `bc`, `wc`, and `sc` under the *VXIplug&play lib* directory. If you choose to create an import library for the current compiler only, LabWindows/CVI creates the file in the appropriate subdirectory.

- **Type Library**—This button lets you choose whether to add a type library resource to your DLL. Also, you can choose to include links in the type library resource to a Windows help file. LabWindows/CVI generates the type library resource from a function panel (`.fpx`) file. You must specify the name of the `.fpx` file. You can generate a Windows help file from the `.fpx` file by using the **Generate Windows Help** command in the **Options** menu of the Function Tree Editor window.

This feature is useful if you intend for your DLL to be used from Visual Basic. For more information, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

- **Using LoadExternalModule**—The following options assist you in loading external modules.
  - **Add Files to DLL**—This button lets you select additional module files which you want to link into the DLL. These are modules that your project files do not directly reference but that are referenced by modules you load at runtime by calling `LoadExternalModule`.  
  
If you select **Add Files to DLL** to force a Windows SDK import library into your project, your DLL may not start or load. The Windows SDK import libraries included in LabWindows/CVI 5.5 contain functions that are not present on all versions of windows. Therefore, forcing an entire import library into your DLL may cause it to fail to load or start because it is referencing a function that is not available in the system DLL on your system.
  - **Help**—This button describes the use of `LoadExternalModule` in a DLL and the **Add Files to DLL** button.

- **Exports**—The following options assist you in exporting symbols.
  - **Export What**—This indicates your current method of choice for determining which symbols in the DLL to export to the users of the DLL. Use the **Change** button to change your choice.
  - **Change**—This button lets you select the method to use for determining which symbols in the DLL to export to the users of the DLL. The choices are the following:
    - **Include File Symbols**—You must name one or more include files that declare symbols defined globally in the DLL. The declared symbols are the ones exported. You can select from a list of include files in the project.
    - **Symbols Marked for Export**—The DLL exports all symbols you define in the DLL with the qualifier `__declspec(dllexport)` or `export`.
    - **Include File and Marked Symbols**—The DLL exports all symbols you define in the DLL with the qualifier `__declspec(dllexport)` or `export` and the symbols declared in the specified header files.
- **OK**—This button accepts the current inputs and closes the dialog box.
- **Cancel**—This button cancels the operation and removes the dialog box.



**Note** When you use the **Symbols Marked for Export** option or the **Include File and Marked Symbols** option and include in your project an object or library file that defines exported symbols, LabWindows/CVI cannot correctly create the import libraries for each of the four compatible external compilers. This problem does not arise if you use only source code files in your DLL project.

For more information on creating DLLs, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

When you set the **Target Type** to **Static Library** and select **Build»Target Settings**, the Target Settings dialog box has the following options:

- **Library File**—The name of the static library files for the debug and release versions of your program. Changing the value of the ring control allows you to edit the filename for the debug and release configurations. You can use the **Browse** button to select an existing filename.
- **Library Generation Choices**—This button lets you choose whether to create a static library for each of the compatible external compilers or create one for the current compatible compiler only. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*. If you want to create a static library for each compiler, you must not include any object or library files in your project because such files are specific to a particular compiler.

If you choose to create a static library for each compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the files in subdirectories named `msvc`, `borland`, `watcom`, and `symantec`.

LabWindows/CVI also creates the library for the current compatible compiler in the parent directory.

- **OK**—This button accepts the current inputs and closes the dialog box.
- **Cancel**—This button cancels the operation and removes the dialog box.

## Compile File

You must compile your source code before you execute your project. Use the **Compile File** command to compile the selected source files. If LabWindows/CVI encounters any build errors, the Build Errors window appears with a list of errors.

Refer to the descriptions of **Build Options** and **Compiler Defines** in the [Options Menu](#) section of this chapter for a discussion of compiler options and defines.

## Mark File for Compilation

When LabWindows/CVI marks a source file for compilation, a C appears next to the filename in the Project window. LabWindows/CVI recompiles marked files the next time you build the project. When you modify a source file, LabWindows/CVI automatically marks the file for compilation. You can force LabWindows/CVI to compile a source file on the next build with the **Mark File for Compilation** command.

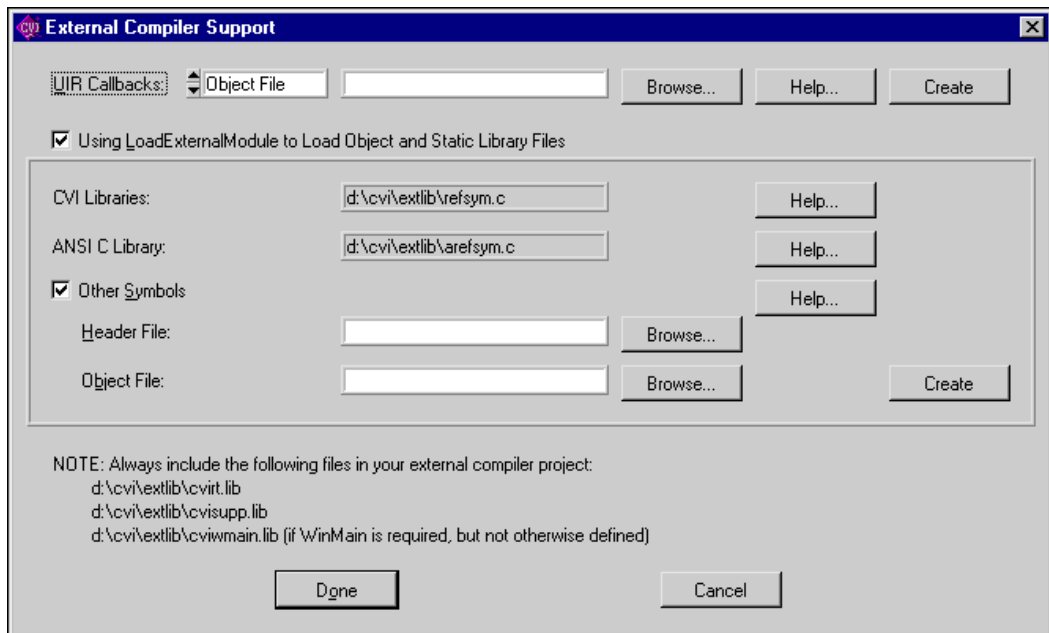
## Mark All for Compilation

Use the **Mark All Files for Compilation** command to force LabWindows/CVI to recompile all source files in the project the next time you build the project.

## External Compiler Support

Use the **External Compiler Support** command to help you build your executable or DLL in one of the four compatible external compilers. For more information on this topic, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

When you execute the command, the External Compiler Support dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 3-9.



**Figure 3-9.** External Compiler Support Dialog Box

The External Compiler Support dialog box has the following options:

- UIR Callbacks**—This option creates an object or source file for you to link into your executable or DLL. The object or source file contains a list of the callback functions you specify in the User Interface Resource (.uir) files in your project. When you load a panel or menu bar from the .uir file, the User Interface Library uses the list to link the objects in the panel or menu bar to their callback functions in your executable or DLL. If you specify callback function names in your .uir file(s), set the ring control to Source File, enter the name of the source file to create, and click on the **Create** button. In the future, whenever you save modifications to any of the .uir files in the project, LabWindows/CVI automatically updates the source file.

You must call the `InitCVIRTE` function at the beginning of your `main`, `WinMain`, or `DLLmain` function so that LabWindows/CVI run-time libraries can initialize the list of names from the source file. If you create a DLL and any of your callback functions are defined in but not exported by the DLL, you must call `LoadPanelEx` or `LoadMenuBarEx` (rather than `LoadPanel` or `LoadMenuBar`) from the DLL.

- **Using LoadExternalModule to Load Object and Static Library Files**—This option enables the section of the dialog box that you use when creating an executable or DLL that calls the Utility Library LoadExternalModule function to load object or static library files.



**Note** This option is not necessary if you use LoadExternalModule to load only DLLs that you load through DLL import libraries.

Unlike DLLs, object and static libraries can contain unresolved external references.

When you use LoadExternalModule to load an object or static library file, LabWindows/CVI resolves these references using symbols in your executable or DLL or in previously loaded external modules. Consequently, the names of the symbols in your executable or DLL that are necessary to resolve these references must be available to the LoadExternalModule function.

- **CVI Libraries**—This display provides information LoadExternalModule requires when your run-time modules reference symbols in any of the following LabWindows/CVI libraries:

- User Interface Library
- RS-232 Library
- DDE Library
- TCP Library
- Formatting and I/O Library
- Utility Library

If you use one of these libraries, include in your external compiler project the source file displayed in this indicator.

- **ANSI C Library**—This display provides information LoadExternalModule requires when your run-time modules reference symbols in the ANSI C library. Include in your external compiler project the source file displayed in this indicator.
- **Other Symbols**—Select this option if your run-time modules refer to symbols other than those covered by the previous two options. Such symbols include functions or variables that you define globally in your executable or DLL and to which your object or static library run-time modules expect to link. This option creates an object file for you to link into your executable or DLL.
  - **Header File**—Insert the name of an include file that contains complete declarations of all the symbols necessary to resolve references from run-time modules.
  - **Object File**—Enter the name of the object file to create. Click on the **Create** button to create the file. You must include this file in your external compiler project.



The bottom of the External Compiler Support dialog box contains a list of library files for you to include in your external compiler project. The files are as follows:

- `cvi\extlib\cvirt.lib`
- `cvi\extlib\cvissup.lib`
- `cvi\extlib\cviwmain.lib`

Use `cviwmain.lib` only when the external compiler requires you to define `WinMain`, when you do not define it in your project, and when any of the libraries the external compiler automatically links do not define it. In general, console applications do not require `WinMain`. GUI application wizards sometimes automatically include it in the source code they generate.

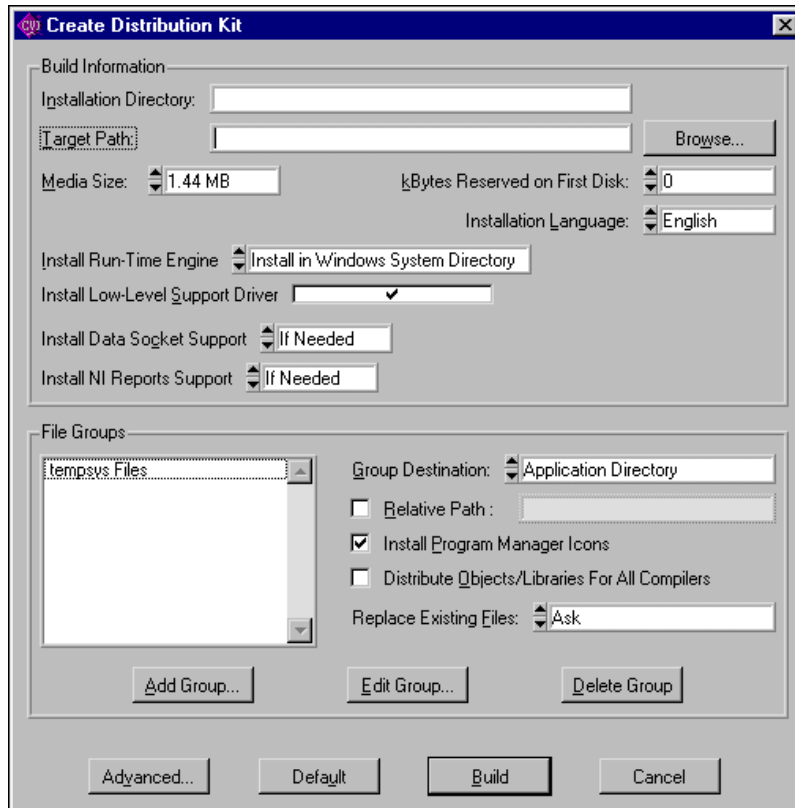
## Create Distribution Kit

Use the **Create Distribution Kit** command to make a set of disks from which you can install your executable program on a target machine. **Create Distribution Kit** automatically includes all the files necessary to run your executable program on a target computer except for DLLs for National Instruments hardware and files that you load using `LoadExternalModule`.

Do not include DLLs for National Instruments hardware in your distribution kit. Users can install the DLLs for their hardware from the distribution disks that they obtain from National Instruments.

If you load files using `LoadExternalModule`, you must include these files manually using the **Add/Edit Group** features of the **Create Distribution Kit** command. Refer to Chapter 4, *Creating and Distributing Standalone Executables and DLLs*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.

When you select the **Create Distribution Kit** command, the Create Distribution Kit dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 3-10.



**Figure 3-10.** Create Distribution Kit Dialog Box

- The **Build Information** section of the Create Distribution Kit dialog box has the following options:
  - **Installation Directory**—The default directory that appears in the user installation.
  - **Target Path**—The path into which you want to build your distribution kit.



**Note** When you define a target path to a floppy disk, you must specify the root directory.

- **Browse**—This button lets you browse for a target path on disk.
- **Media Size**—The media size of your distribution disks. When you choose a floppy drive as your target path, LabWindows/CVI determines the media size automatically and makes this control inactive.

- **kBytes Reserved on First Disk**—Allows you to reserve space on the first disk of your distribution kit for extra files.
- **Installation Language**—The language that the installation program uses for text during the installation.
- **Install Run-Time Engine**—This ring control lets you include the LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine and associated files in your distribution kit. If you know that the Run-time Engine is already on the target machine, or if you want to copy and distribute the Run-time Engine separately, you do not have to include the Run-time Engine files in your distribution kit.

If you choose **Install in Windows System Directory**, the run-time engine files are installed into the Windows `system` directory. If you choose **Install in Application Directory**, the run-time engine files, including `cvirt.dll` and `cvirte.dll`, are installed in the same directory as your application. The low-level support driver files cannot be installed in the same directory as your application.

- **Install Low-Level Support Driver**—This option lets you choose whether to install the LabWindows/CVI low-level support driver on the user's computer. The Utility Library functions shown in Table 3-1 require the LabWindows/CVI low-level driver.
- **Install DataSocket Support**—If you set this control to **If Needed**, the files required to use the DataSocket Library will be included in your distribution only if your project uses the DataSocket library. Set this control to **Always** and the DataSocket files will always be included in your distribution. Set this control to **Never** and the DataSocket files will never be included in your distribution.
- **Install NI Reports Support**—If you set this control to **If Needed**, the files required to use the NI Reports instrument driver will be included in your distribution only if your project uses the NI Reports instrument driver. Set this control to **Always** and NI Reports files will always be included in your distribution. Set this control to **Never** and the NI Reports files will never be included in your distribution.

**Table 3-1.** Platforms Where Utility Functions Require the Low-Level Support Driver

Function	Platforms that Require the Low-Level Support Driver
<code>inp</code>	Windows 2000/NT
<code>inpw</code>	Windows 2000/NT
<code>outp</code>	Windows 2000/NT
<code>outpw</code>	Windows 2000/NT
<code>ReadFromPhysicalMemory</code>	All
<code>ReadFromPhysicalMemoryEx</code>	All

**Table 3-1.** Platforms Where Utility Functions Require the Low-Level Support Driver (Continued)

Function	Platforms that Require the Low-Level Support Driver
WriteToPhysicalMemory	All
WriteToPhysicalMemoryEx	All
MapPhysicalMemory	All
UnMapPhysicalMemory	All
DisableInterrupts	Windows 98/95
EnableInterrupts	Windows 98/95
DisableTaskSwitching	Windows 98/95

The LabWindows/CVI development environment and the LabWindows/CVI Run-time Engine each load the low-level support driver automatically at startup if it is present on disk. Under Windows 98/95, the name of the driver is `cvi95vxd.vxd`, and the distribution kit installs it in the Windows `system` directory. Under Windows 2000/NT, the name of the driver is `cvintdrv.sys`, and the distribution kit installs it in the Windows `system32\drivers` directory. The distribution kit makes a Registry entry for the driver under Windows 2000/NT. Refer to Chapter 4, *Creating and Distributing Standalone Executables and DLLs*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*, for the details of the Registry entry.

- The **File Groups** section of the Create Distribution Kit dialog box has the following options:
  - **File Groups**—This list box lets you separate the files in your distribution kit into groups. You must assign a destination directory to each group. The installation program creates the directories on the target machine and places each of the file groups in its assigned directory. You can set each of the options to the right of the list box to different values for each file group.
  - **Group Destination**—This ring control sets the root destination directory for the selected group.
  - **Relative Path**—This control lets you assign a relative path based on the root destination directory in which to install the selected group.
  - **Install Program Manager Icons**—This option lets you choose whether to create a Windows program group that contains icons for files in the selected file group. The installation program can install the embedded icons for `.exe` files and the default icons for `.pif`, `.com`, `.txt`, `.wri`, `.bat`, and `.hlp` files.

- **Distribute Objects/Libraries For All Compilers**—This option helps you distribute object files, static libraries, and DLL import libraries for all the compatible external compilers. When enabled, this option affects all the .obj and .lib files listed in the selected file group. LabWindows/CVI includes four versions of each file in the distribution kit. LabWindows/CVI expects these versions to be in subdirectories under the specified location of each file. The subdirectories must be named msvc, borland, watcom, and symantec. For example, if you specify the file c:\myapp\distr\big.lib in a file group and the **Distribute Objects/Libraries For All Compilers** option is enabled, when LabWindows/CVI creates the distribution kit, you must have the following files on your disk:

- c:\myapp\distr\msvc\big.lib
- c:\myapp\distr\borland\big.lib
- c:\myapp\distr\watcom\big.lib
- c:\myapp\distr\symantec\big.lib

The installation program prompts the user to choose one of the compatible external compilers. The installation program installs only the files for the compiler the user chooses.

You might want to use this feature if you distribute modules for use with the LabWindows/CVI development environment or external compilers. If you distribute a turnkey application, this feature is not necessary.



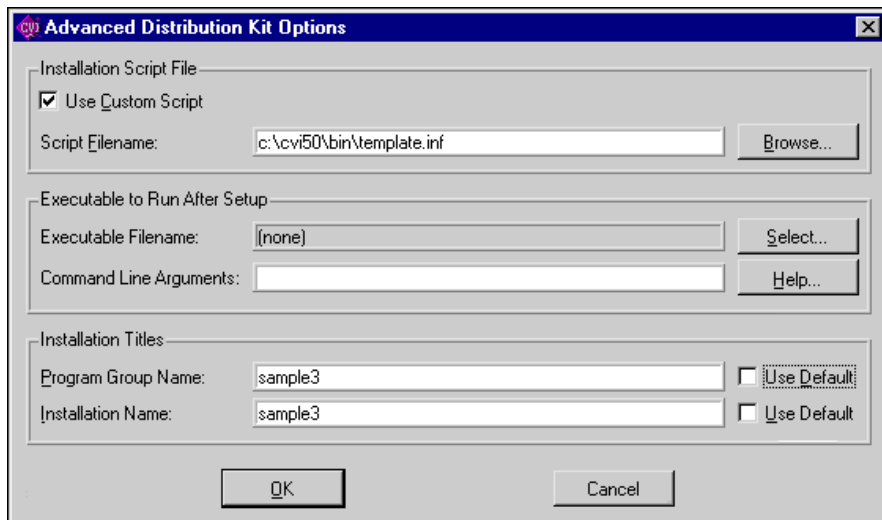
**Note** Do not use this feature for distributing DLL import libraries for VXIplug&play instrument drivers. When installing a VXIplug&play instrument driver, you have to install two import libraries: one compatible with Visual C/C++ and the other with Borland C/C++. The two import libraries must be installed in the msvc and bc subdirectories under the VXIplug&play lib directory. LabWindows/CVI sets this up automatically for you if you use the **Create DLL Project** command in the Function Tree Editor window with the **VXIplug&play Style** command enabled.

- **Replace Existing Files**—This control lets you configure the way the installation program replaces existing files. The **Replace Existing Files** ring control has the following options: **Ask**, **If Newer**, **Always**, **Check Version**, **Never**.

The **Check Version** option applies to files with a Windows version resource (in other words, DLLs and executables). The installation program checks the file on the distribution kit and the existing file for a version resource. If each has a version resource, the installation program replaces the existing file if the version number of the file in the distribution kit is newer than the version number in the existing file. If the file in the distribution kit has a version resource but the existing file does not, the installation program replaces the existing file. When the file in the distribution

kit does not have a version resource, the installation program replaces the existing file if the date of the file in the distribution kit is newer.

- **Add Group**—This button lets you add a new group to your distribution kit.
- **Edit Group**—This button lets you edit the selected group.
- **Delete Group**—This button lets you delete the selected group from your distribution kit.
- **Advanced**—When you click on this button, the Advanced Distribution Kit Options dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 3-11.



**Figure 3-11.** Advanced Distribution Kit Options Dialog Box

The dialog box has the following options:

- **Use Custom Script**—Select this option to enter the name of a customized installation script file for your distribution kit. The default installation script file is `cvi\bin\template.inf`.

The installation script for distributing *VXIplug&play* instrument drivers is `cvi\bin\vxipnp.inf`. The instructions for using the *VXIplug&play* installation script are in the file `cvi\bin\vxipnp.doc`. If you use the **Create DLL Project** command in the Function Tree Editor window with the **VXIplug&play Style** command enabled, LabWindows/CVI automatically generates project settings so that the **Create Distribution Kit** command uses the *VXIplug&play* installation script and distributes all the files required of a *VXIplug&play* installation.

- **Script Filename**—The pathname of the customized installation script file. You can use the **Browse** button to select an existing filename.

- **Executable Filename**—The name of an executable file to run after the user installation is complete. Use the **Select** button to select a file that you have already added to one of the file groups.
- **Command Line Arguments**—The command line arguments to pass to the executable to run after the installation is complete. Use the **Help** button to view detailed information on special macros you can use in this control.
- **Program Group Name**—The name of the program group created during the installation. If you select the **Use Default** option, LabWindows/CVI uses the following priority to determine the program group name.
  1. If the project target is an executable and you have entered an application title in the Create Standalone Executable dialog box, LabWindows/CVI uses the application title.
  2. Otherwise, if you have created the target executable, DLL, or static library, LabWindows/CVI uses the base filename of the target.
  3. Otherwise, LabWindows/CVI uses the base name of the project file.
- **Installation Name**—The installation window title and the text displayed in the upper part of the installation window. If you select the **Use Default** option, LabWindows/CVI sets the name using the same priority as for the Program Group Name.
- **Default**—Resets all controls in the Create Distribution Kit dialog box to their default values. When you create a new distribution kit, you can click on **Default** to undo changes you have made to the controls in the dialog box.



**Note** When you use the **Create Distribution Kit** dialog box to modify an existing distribution kit, **Default** replaces your existing file groupings and settings with default values. If you click on **Default** in error, click on **Cancel** to prevent this change to your distribution kit.

- **Build**—This button lets you build your distribution kit.
- **Cancel**—This button lets you cancel the **Create Distribution Kit** operation.

## Debugging DLLs

---

If you set the **Target Type** item in the **Build** menu to **Dynamic Link Library** and the **Configuration** item in the **Build** menu to **Debug**, the **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library** command is displayed in the **Build** menu. When you use the **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library** command, LabWindows/CVI includes debug code in your DLL and generates an extra file that contains a symbol table and source position information necessary for debugging. The extra file has the same pathname as the DLL except that its extension is .cdb.

In the LabWindows/CVI development environment, you can debug only DLLs you create in LabWindows/CVI with the **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library** command. Other development environments cannot debug DLLs you create in LabWindows/CVI.

The amount of debugging information included in the DLL and debug file depends on the value of the **Debugging Level** control in the Build Options dialog box.

## Location of Files Required for Debugging DLLs

To debug a DLL in LabWindows/CVI, the .cdb file and the source files for the DLL must be available. LabWindows/CVI looks for the .cdb file in the following locations and order:

1. The directory from which LabWindows/CVI loaded the DLL
2. The directory in which you created the DLL
3. The directory of the current project target, if the current project target is the DLL
4. The Windows directory
5. The Windows system directory

If LabWindows/CVI cannot find the .cdb file in any of these locations, a dialog box prompts you to browse for it. After you enter the location of the .cdb file, LabWindows/CVI stores the location in the Windows Registry.

The .cdb file contains the locations of the source files at the time you created the DLL. It also contains the LabWindows/CVI installation directory and VXIplug&play framework directory. When LabWindows/CVI has to display a DLL source file, it looks for the file in the following places and order:

1. The project list, if the current project target is the DLL you are debugging
2. The source file directory that LabWindows/CVI stored in the .cdb file
3. If you have moved the .cdb file, the directory that is in the same relative position to the current .cdb location as the stored source file directory was in relation to the original .cdb file location
4. If the source file was originally under the LabWindows/CVI directory and the LabWindows/CVI directory has changed, the same relative position to the new LabWindows/CVI directory
5. If the source file was originally under the VXIplug&play framework directory and the VXIplug&play framework directory has changed, the same relative position to the new VXIplug&play framework directory

If LabWindows/CVI cannot find a DLL source file, it reports an error. Make sure that your files are in one of the preceding locations.



In summary, when you move a DLL to another machine and you want to debug it there, you must also copy the .cdb file and the source files. It is best to keep the .cdb file and source files in the same relative location to each other. You do not have to keep the .cdb file in the same directory as the DLL. LabWindows/CVI prompts you for the .cdb file location and keeps track of it thereafter.

## Different Ways to Debug DLLs

You can debug a DLL two ways. In one approach, you run a LabWindows/CVI executable project that calls the DLL. The DLL project is not open in LabWindows/CVI. In the other approach, you open the DLL project and run an external process that uses the DLL.

### Running a Program in LabWindows/CVI

To debug a DLL that another LabWindows/CVI project uses, select **Run»Debug** after loading the project that will use the DLL. When LabWindows/CVI loads the DLL, it loads the corresponding debug information from the .cdb file. LabWindows/CVI honors breakpoints you set in DLL source files. LabWindows/CVI saves in the project any breakpoints you set in any source file, regardless of whether the source file is in the project.

Also, you can set watch expressions for a debuggable DLL. For each watch expression, you must choose whether it applies to a project or a DLL. If it applies to a DLL, you must enter the name of the DLL. LabWindows/CVI stores this information in the project. For more information, refer to Chapter 7, *Variables and Watch Windows*. You can debug multiple DLLs called from the same project. LabWindows/CVI handles each DLL in the same manner.

### Running an External Process

To debug a DLL that an external process uses, load the DLL project into LabWindows/CVI. Select **Run»Select External Process** in the Project window. A dialog box appears that allows you to enter the pathname of an external process and command line arguments. LabWindows/CVI stores this information in the project.

After you have specified the pathname of an external process, the **Debug Project** item in the **Run** menu changes to **Debug xxx.exe**, where xxx.exe is the filename of the external process. Execute the **Debug xxx.exe** command. LabWindows/CVI starts the external process and attaches to it for debugging. If you have set any breakpoints in the source files for the DLL, LabWindows/CVI honors them.

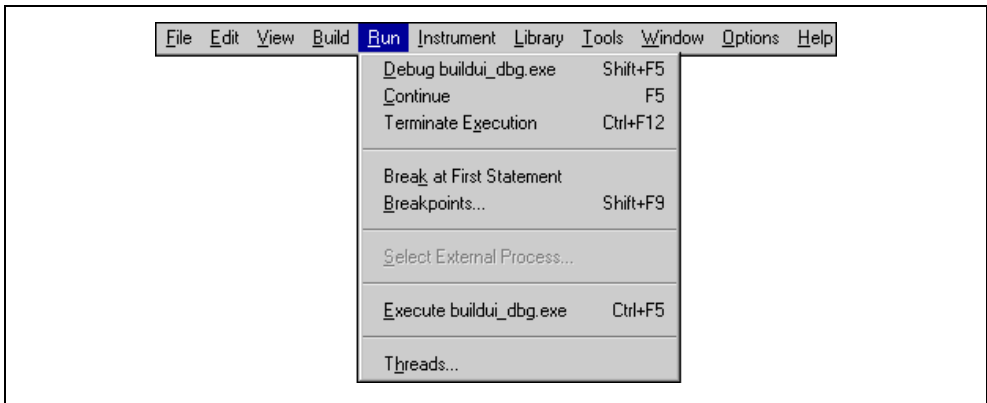
If the external process loads other debuggable DLLs, you can debug them even though a project for a different DLL is open. LabWindows/CVI handles the other DLLs as described in the *Running a Program in LabWindows/CVI* discussion earlier in this section.



**Note** The command-line arguments that you set in the Select External Process dialog box are the same command line arguments that you set using **Options»Command Line** in the Project window.

## Run Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Run** menu, as shown in Figure 3-12. You can use commands in the **Run** menu to run your program and assign breakpoints. For more information about breakpoints, refer to the [Introduction to Breakpoints and Watch Expressions](#) section in Chapter 5, [Source and Interactive Execution Windows](#).



**Figure 3-12.** Run Menu

## Debug

If you have an executable project loaded, the **Debug** command runs the project's target executable for the currently selected configuration. You set the active configuration using the **Configuration** submenu in the **Build** menu. If you have a DLL project loaded, the **Debug** command runs the executable specified by the **External Process** command. Before LabWindows/CVI runs the executable, it compiles any source files that need to be compiled and builds the project's target executable or DLL if you have made changes since the target DLL or executable was last built.

## Run-Time Error Reporting

During the execution of a program, LabWindows/CVI can report various run-time errors. One example of a run-time error is a call to a LabWindows/CVI library function in which an array or string is not large enough to hold the output data.

When such errors occur, a dialog box appears, identifying the type of error and the location in the program where the error occurred. LabWindows/CVI lists the error in the Run-Time Errors window.

LabWindows/CVI then suspends the program so you can inspect the values of variables in the Variables window. To terminate a program that has been suspended because of a run-time error, select the **Terminate Execution** command or press <Ctrl-F12> while a LabWindows/CVI Environment window is active.

## Continue

Use the **Continue** command to resume program execution when in a breakpoint state.

## Terminate Execution

Use the **Terminate Execution** command to terminate a program that is in a breakpoint state.

## Break at First Statement

Select **Break at First Statement** to force LabWindows/CVI to break a program on the first executable statement. When activated, this command has a checkmark beside it in the menu.

## Breakpoints

The **Breakpoints** command opens the Breakpoints dialog box that contains a list of the breakpoints in the project. You can add, delete, or edit project breakpoints from this dialog box. For a complete description of this command, refer to the [Run Menu](#) section of Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*.

## Select External Process

This command applies only when you set the **Target Type** item in the **Build** menu to **Dynamic Link Library**. The **Select External Process** command allows you to specify a standalone executable that uses your DLL. When you execute the command, a dialog box appears in which you enter the pathname and command line arguments to an external program. The **Run Project** item in the **Run** menu then changes to **Debug xxx.exe**, where *xxx.exe* is the filename of the external program. When you execute the **Debug xxx.exe** command, LabWindows/CVI starts the external process and attaches to it for debugging. If you have set any breakpoints in the source files for the DLL, LabWindows/CVI honors them.

LabWindows/CVI stores external program pathname and command line arguments in the project.

## Execute

The **Execute** command launches the executable for the active configuration without attaching the debugger to the executable. You must create the executable, using the **Create** menu item in the **Build** menu, before you use this command. This command is dimmed if the **Target Type** for the project is DLL or Static Library.

## Threads

The **Threads** command brings up a dialog box listing the threads in the program being debugged. Use this dialog box to select the threads whose local variables and call stack you want to view. When you select a thread from this dialog box and click on **OK** to close the dialog box, LabWindows/CVI displays the local variables for the selected thread in the variable display and displays the current source position of the thread in a Source window. The **Stack Trace**, **Up Call Stack**, and **Down Call Stack** commands in the Source windows **Run** menu display information on the currently selected thread. The watch display shows the thread-specific values of the expressions in the Watch window.

## Using Instrument Drivers

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This section presents a general overview of instrument drivers. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide*, for more information on creating instrument drivers.

An *instrument driver* is a set of high-level functions with graphical function panels that make programming easier. It encapsulates many low-level operations, such as data formatting and communication with GPIB, RS-232, and VXI, into intuitive, high-level functions. An instrument driver usually controls a physical instrument, but it also can be a software utility.

Instrument driver programs have an associated include file that declares the high-level functions you can call, the global variables you can access, and the defined constants you can use.

## Instrument Driver Files

A LabWindows/CVI instrument driver typically consists of the following three or four files. Each file has the same base filename, which is an abbreviation of the actual instrument name. The instrument driver files must reside in the same directory on your disk, or they must be in the appropriate *VXIplug&play* directories.

- The function panels are in a file with the extension `.fp`. Refer to Chapter 6, *Using Function Panels*, for a detailed description of function panels.
- For instrument drivers that use an attribute model, such as IVI drivers, there can be an additional `.sub` file that contains attribute information displayed in the function panels.

- The function, variable, and defined constant declarations are in an include file with a `.h` extension.
- The instrument driver program can be in one of several different types of files.
  - A source file with a `.c` extension.
  - An object file that contains one or more compiled C modules with a `.obj` extension or a library file with a `.lib` extension. The compilation must be done by LabWindows/CVI or a compatible external compiler. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues* in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information on compatible external compilers.

For example, the instrument module files for a Fluke 8840A multimeter are `f18840a.fp`, `f18840a.c`, and `f18840a.h`.

You can load an instrument driver into the LabWindows/CVI interactive program whether the instrument program is in the form of a `.c`, `.obj`, or `.lib` file. The presence of the `.h` file is essential because you must include it in your program to reference functions, global variables, and constants in the instrument driver.

## VXIplug&play Instrument Driver Files

When you install a VXIplug&play instrument driver, the installation program does not place the include (`.h`) file in the same directory as the `.fp` file. The installation program places it in the `include` subdirectory under the VXIplug&play directory. LabWindows/CVI can find the include files in the VXIplug&play include directory.

When you install a VXIplug&play instrument driver, the installation program places the source (`.c`) file in the same directory as the `.fp` file. The installation program also installs a dynamic link library (`.dll`) and two import libraries (`.lib`), one compatible with Visual C/C++ and the other with Borland C/C++. These files are not in the same directory as the `.fp` file. The import libraries are in the `msc` and `bc` subdirectories in the VXIplug&play `lib` directory. The DLL is in the VXIplug&play `bin` directory. The installation program adds the VXIplug&play `bin` directory to the `PATH` environment variable so that the DLL can be found using the standard Windows DLL search algorithm.

If the `.fp` file is under the VXIplug&play framework directory and your current compatible compiler is Visual C/C++ or Borland C/C++, LabWindows/CVI can find the appropriate import library. If your current compatible compiler is Watcom C/C++ or Symantec C/C++, LabWindows/CVI looks for the import library in the `wc` or `sc` subdirectory in the VXIplug&play `lib` directory. However, import libraries for these two compilers do not normally accompany VXIplug&play instrument drivers. If LabWindows/CVI finds the import library, it gives it precedence over the `.c` file as the program file for the instrument driver.

## Loading/Unloading Instrument Drivers

You can load and unload instrument drivers manually using the **Instrument** menu. Instrument drivers loaded through the **Instrument** menu do not have to be listed in the project, and you can load or unload them at any time except during program execution.

You can incorporate instrument drivers into the project by selecting **File»Add to Project** in a Function Panel window or the Function Tree Editor window or by selecting **Edit»Add Files to Project** in the Project window. The `.fp` file represents the instrument driver in the project list. If the `.fp` file is in the project list when you open the project, LabWindows/CVI automatically loads the instrument driver and removes it when you unload the project.

## Precedence Rules for Loading the Instrument Driver Program File

When you load a `.fp` file, LabWindows/CVI loads the instrument driver program file. In some cases, you might have an instrument driver program file in more than one format. For instance, you might have `f18840a.obj` and `f18840a.c` in the same directory. This can occur when you obtain the source code for the instrument driver and then compile it. LabWindows/CVI chooses which file to load according to the following rules:

- If an instrument driver program file is in the project, LabWindows/CVI loads it. There can be at most one unexcluded program file with the same base name as the `.fp` file in the project list. Thus, `x.obj` and `x.c` cannot be in the project list at the same time unless you exclude one or both of them.
- If both of the following conditions apply, the `.lib` file is associated with the `.fp` file:
  - The `.fp` file is under the `VXIplug&play` framework directory.
  - A `.lib` file is in the appropriate `VXIplug&play` framework subdirectory. Table 3-2 shows the corresponding subdirectories.

**Table 3-2.** *VXIplug&play* Framework Subdirectories

Compatible Compiler	Corresponding Subdirectory that Contains the .lib File
Visual C/C++	<code>lib\msc</code>
Borland C/C++/C++ Builder	<code>lib\bc</code>
Watcom C/C++	<code>lib\wc</code>
Symantec C/C++	<code>lib\sc</code>

- If an instrument driver program file is on disk in the same directory as the `.fp` file, LabWindows/CVI loads it with the following precedence:
  1. `.lib`
  2. `.obj`

## Loading an Instrument without an Instrument Program

You can load a `.fp` file as an instrument, even if no program file exists for it. In this case, LabWindows/CVI does not associate a program with the `.fp` file. Nevertheless, the `.fp` file appears in the **Instrument** menu.

This is useful if you want to use `.fp` files for documenting functions in your project. When you do not provide a program file for the `.fp` file, you cannot execute the function panels, but you can insert code into Source windows from them.

If you try to execute an instrument driver function panel when no program is associated with the instrument, LabWindows/CVI reports a run-time error. It is possible to associate a `.c` file with a `.fp` file after you load the `.fp` file. Refer to the [Edit](#) command in the *Instrument Menu* section later in this chapter for more information.

## Modules that Contain Non-Instrument Functions

Although the LabWindows/CVI instrument driver mechanism is primarily for program modules that control instruments, you can use it for any module that contains a set of high-level functions.

Suppose, for instance, you write a set of specialized analysis functions. If you develop function panels and a `.h` file for the module, you can load the module from the **Instrument** menu and call the functions from the function panels.

## Modifying an Instrument Driver

You might want to modify an instrument driver that you received from National Instruments or elsewhere. If you want to modify the instrument driver program file, you must have the `.c` file for the instrument driver.

Before modifying an instrument driver, familiarize yourself with the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide*.

You can modify four parts of an instrument driver:

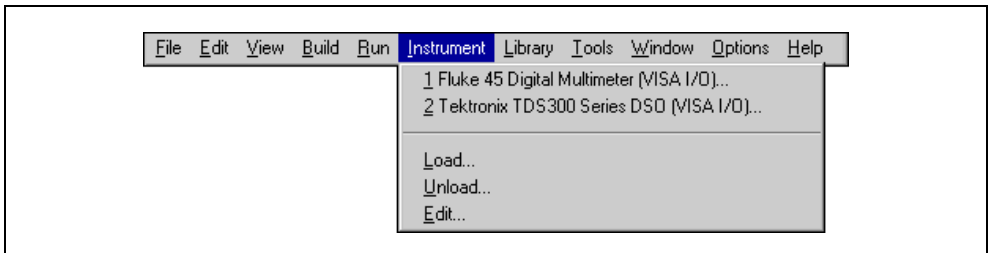
- You can modify the function tree by selecting the `.fp` file using the **File»Open»Function Tree (.fp)** command, by selecting **Instrument»Edit**, or by selecting **Tools»Edit Function Tree** from a Source window that contains the instrument driver source or include file.
- You can modify the function panels by selecting **Option»Edit Function Panel Window** from a Function Panel window, by selecting **Edit»Edit Function Panel Window** from a Function Tree Editor window, or by selecting **Tools»Edit Function Panel** from a Source window that contains the instrument driver source or include file when the text cursor is over the name of the function in the driver.

- You can modify the instrument driver program file by selecting **Instrument»Edit** in a Function Panel window, by selecting **Tools»Go To Definition** from a Function Panel Editor window, or by selecting **Go To Definition** from the context menu in the Function Tree Editor window.
- You can modify the instrument driver include file by selecting the .h file using the **File»Open»Include (\*.h)** in the Project window, by selecting **Tools»Go To Declaration** from a Function Panel Editor window, or by selecting **Go To Declaration** from the context menu of the Function Tree Editor window.

## Instrument Menu

The **Instrument** menu is a *dynamic* menu. It contains a list of the loaded instrument drivers and commands to load, unload, and edit instruments. When you load an instrument, its name appears in the list. When you unload an instrument, its name disappears from the list. When you select an instrument name in the **Instrument** menu, you can access its function panels.

Load and unload instrument drivers using the commands in the **Instrument** menu, as shown in Figure 3-13.



**Figure 3-13.** Instrument Menu

## Load

When you select the **Load** command, a dialog box appears. In the Instrument Load dialog box, the filename \*.fnp appears in the **File Name** text box. Always load instruments through the .fnp filename. You cannot load an instrument driver unless a .fnp file exists for it.

When you specify a .fnp file to load, LabWindows/CVI also looks in the same directory for a program file with the same base filename. If it finds one, it loads the instrument driver program along with the function panels.

For *VXIplug&play* instrument drivers, the program file can be in a different directory. Refer to the [Precedence Rules for Loading the Instrument Driver Program File](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on loading instrument drivers.



## File Format Conversion

If the .fpx file you are loading was created using LabWindows for DOS, a message appears indicating that LabWindows/CVI is converting the .fpx file to the current format. You can use the dialog box that appears after the conversion to save the converted .fpx file to disk.

## Unload

When you select the **Unload** command, a dialog box appears that contains a scrollable list of all the instruments you loaded with the **Load** menu. From this dialog box, you can select one or more instrument drivers to unload.

## Edit

You can use the **Edit** command to edit an instrument driver program in a Source window or an instrument driver function tree in a Function Tree Editor window. When you select the **Edit** command, the Edit Instrument dialog box shown in Figure 3-14 appears.

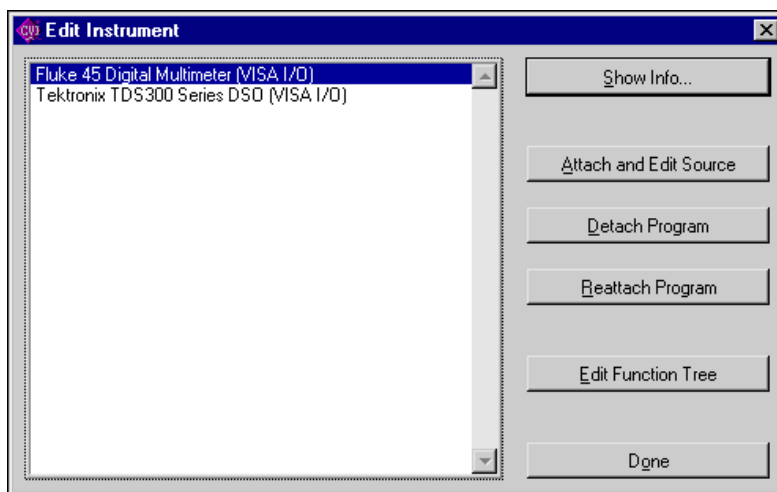
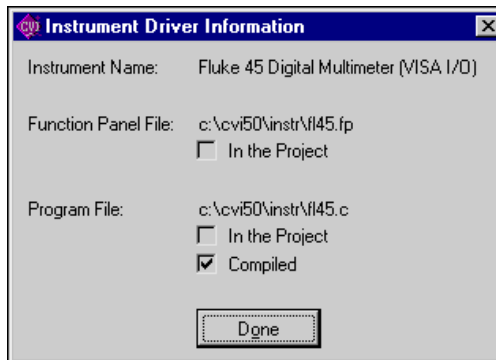


Figure 3-14. Edit Instrument Dialog Box

The dialog box displays instrument drivers you loaded as part of the project or through the **Instrument** menu. The commands in the Edit Instrument dialog box are as follows:

- **Show Info**—Opens the read-only Instrument Driver Information dialog box, as shown in Figure 3-15.

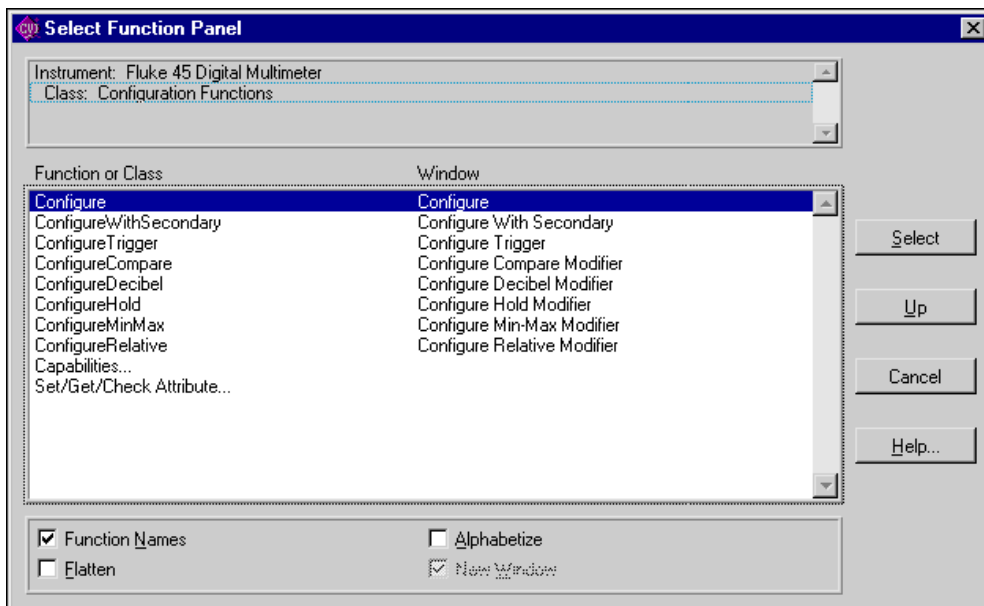


**Figure 3-15.** Instrument Driver Dialog Box

- **Attach and Edit Source**—If a .c file with the same base name as the selected .fp file exists in the same directory as the .fp file, LabWindows/CVI loads, compiles, and attaches the .c file as the instrument driver program file. The .c file appears in a new Source window.
- **Detach Program**—LabWindows/CVI detaches the instrument driver program file from the .fp file.
- **Reattach Program**—LabWindows/CVI detaches the current instrument driver program file, if any, from the .fp file. LabWindows/CVI then reloads a program file using the rules outlined in the [Precedence Rules for Loading the Instrument Driver Program File](#) section earlier in this chapter.
- **Edit Function Tree**—LabWindows/CVI displays the function tree for the selected .fp file.
- **Done**—Closes the Edit Instrument dialog box.

## Accessing Function Panels from the Instrument Menu

When you select an instrument name in the **Instrument** menu, the Select Function Panel dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 3-16.



**Figure 3-16.** Select Function Panel Dialog Box

The Select Function Panel dialog box shows the function panels available in the driver you selected. Class names appear in the dialog box followed by ellipses (...). The ellipses indicate that more functions or classes of functions exist below that class name. If you select **Flatten**, the list box shows all function panels at or below the current level.

If you select the **Function Names** option, the list box shows the function names associated with each function panel. While in this mode, the **Alphabetize** option redisplay the function list in alphabetical order.

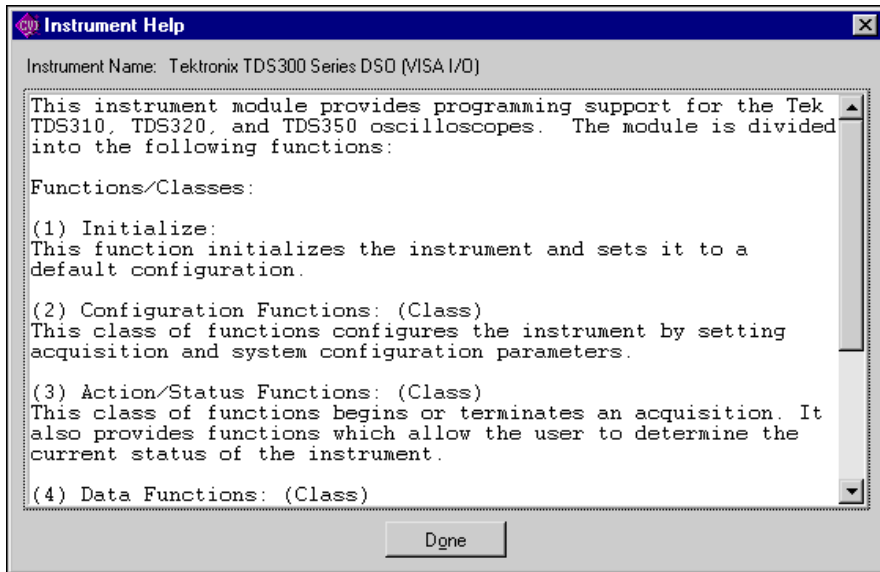
If **New Window** is selected, the next selected function panel appears in a new window. Otherwise, LabWindows/CVI overwrites the current Function Panel window. This overrides the **Use Only One Function Panel Window** option in the **Environment** command of the **Options** menu.

Use **Select** to select a class name to view the functions within a class. A class can contain other classes and functions. An instrument driver can contain up to four levels of classes and functions. Each time you select a class name, the function list updates. Click on the **Up** button to return to the previous level.

When you select a function from a dialog box, that function panel appears. Refer to Chapter 6, [Using Function Panels](#), for more information about function panels.

To close the dialog box without opening a function panel, select **Cancel**.

The Select Function Panel dialog box contains a **Help** button. Click on the button to get help information about the functions and classes listed in the dialog box. Select **Help** or press <F1> to display the Help dialog box for a selected function panel. Figure 3-17 shows an Instrument Help dialog box.



**Figure 3-17.** Instrument Help Dialog Box

To close the Help dialog box, click on the **Done** button, press the <Enter> key, or press the <Esc> key.

## Library Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Library** menu, as shown in Figure 3-18. Use the **Library** menu commands to access function panels for the LabWindows/CVI libraries. Use library function panels to interactively run library functions and insert these function calls into any open Source window.

When you select a library name in the **Library** menu, you can access the library function panels. For more information, refer to the [Accessing Function Panels](#) section in Chapter 6, [Using Function Panels](#).

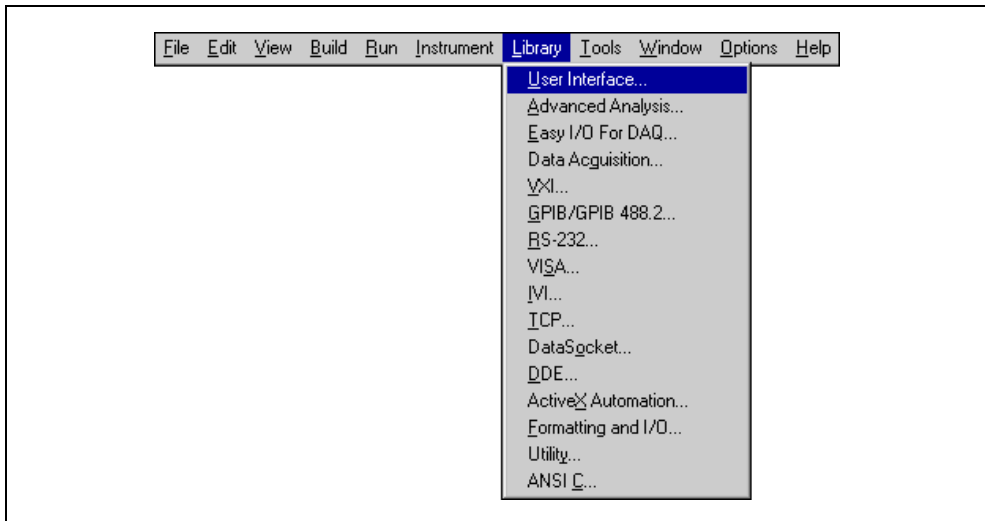


Figure 3-18. Library Menu

## User Interface

The User Interface Library is a set of functions for controlling a graphical user interface. A graphical user interface is a collection of objects such as menu bars, panels, controls, and graphs. You can construct the user interface programmatically or with the User Interface Editor. Refer to Chapter 4, [User Interface Editor Window](#), for more information on creating and controlling a user interface.

## Analysis

The Analysis Library includes functions for one-dimensional (1D) and two-dimensional (2D) array manipulation, complex operations, matrix operations, and statistics. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for analysis function descriptions.

## Advanced Analysis

The Advanced Analysis Library is an optional package that comes with the full development system or can be ordered separately from National Instruments. It includes additional functions for signal generation, signal processing, and curve fitting.

## Easy I/O for DAQ

The Easy I/O for DAQ Library contains functions that make writing simple DAQ programs easier than if you use the Data Acquisition Library. Refer to the function panel help for the Easy I/O for DAQ Library for more information.

## Data Acquisition

Use the Data Acquisition Library to control your National Instruments data acquisition boards. Refer to the *NI-DAQ User Manual for PC Compatibles* and the *NI-DAQ Function Reference Manual for PC Compatibles* included with your data acquisition hardware, for a software overview and function descriptions.

## VXI

Use the VXI Library to control your VXI instruments from a National Instruments embedded VXI controller or a PC equipped with a MXI controller. The VXI Library includes functions for Commander and Servant Word Serial Protocol, low-level VXIbus access, local resource access, VXI signals, interrupts, triggers, system interrupt handlers, and system configuration. Refer to the *NI-VXI User Manual* and the *NI-VXI Programmer Reference Manual*, included with your LabWindows/CVI VXI development system, for a software overview and function descriptions.

## GPIO/GPIB 488.2

Use the GPIB Library to communicate with GPIB instruments over the NI-488/488.2 protocol. You must have a National Instruments GPIB hardware interface and software driver. Refer to the *NI-488.2M Software Reference Manual* and either the *NI-488.2 Function Reference Manual for DOS/Windows* or the *NI-488.2M Function Reference Manual for Windows* included with your GPIB 488.2 controller board, for a software overview and function descriptions. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for a description of the Device Manager routines, which ensure against device name conflicts when using instrument drivers.

## RS-232

Use the RS-232 Library to control the RS-232 serial ports on your computer. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for RS-232 function descriptions.

## VISA

The VISA Library gives VXI and GPIB software developers, particularly instrument driver developers, a single interface library for controlling VXI, GPIB, and RS-232 instruments. The *NI-VISA Programmer Reference Manual*, available upon request, describes the functions.

## IVI

The IVI Library gives developers a structured framework for creating *VXIplug&play* instrument drivers with advanced features, such as state caching, simulation, and compatibility with generic instrument classes. The Create IVI Instrument Driver Wizard

supplements the library, automatically creating the skeleton of an IVI driver that includes source code and function panels. The *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* contains the IVI Library function reference information and instructions on how to create IVI drivers. Select **Tools»Create IVI Instrument Driver** to start the Create IVI Instrument Driver Wizard.

## TCP

Use the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) Library to communicate over TCP networks. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for TCP function descriptions.

## DataSocket

Use the DataSocket Library to access data from different sources including HTTP, FTP, DataSocket Transfer Protocol (DSTP), and Ole for Process Control (OPC) servers. You also can use the DataSocket Library to publish data using the DSTP. DataSocket uses an enhanced data format for exchanging instrumentation style data, including data attributes and actual data. Data attributes might include information such as an acquisition rate, test operator name, timestamp, quality of data, and so on. Although you can use general purpose file I/O functions, TCP/IP functions, and FTP/HTTP requests to transfer data between applications, applications and files, and computers, you must write a significant amount of program code to do so. DataSocket greatly simplifies this task by providing a unified API for these low-level communication protocols. Transferring data across computers with DataSocket is as simple as using a browser to read Web pages on the Internet. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more information.

## DDE

Use the Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) Library to create an interface with other Windows applications using the DDE standard. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for DDE function descriptions.

## ActiveX Automation

Use the ActiveX Automation Library in conjunction with the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard to control ActiveXAutomation servers. Select **Tools»Create ActiveX Automation Controller** to invoke the wizard. The wizard allows you to browse an ActiveX Automation server and select which methods you want to use. It then generates an instrument driver with a C API and function panels for using the selected methods. The ActiveX Automation Library contains low-level functions that the generated instrument drivers use and high-level functions that you use to manipulate the data you pass to and from the instrument driver functions. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for ActiveX Automation function descriptions.

## Formatting and I/O

Use the Formatting and I/O Library functions to input and output data to files and manipulate the format of data in a program. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for Formatting and I/O function descriptions.

## Utility

The Utility Library contains functions that do not fit into any of the other LabWindows/CVI libraries. You can use these functions for file manipulation and other miscellaneous tasks. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for Utility function descriptions.

## ANSI C

The ANSI C Library contains the ANSI C functions available in LabWindows/CVI. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more information.

## User Libraries

You can install your own libraries into the **Library** menu. A user library has the same form as an instrument driver. Anything that can be loaded into the **Instrument** menu can be loaded as a user library, provided the program is in compiled form. Refer to the [Using Instrument Drivers](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on loading files with the **Instrument** menu.

The main difference between modules you load as instrument drivers and those you load as user libraries is that you can unload instrument drivers with the **Unload** command in the **Instrument** menu, but you cannot unload user libraries. Also, because user libraries must be in compiled form, you cannot edit them when they are in the **Library** menu. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for detailed information about writing an instrument driver.

You install user libraries by selecting **Options»Library Options** in the Project window. Once a library is installed, the next time you launch LabWindows/CVI the libraries will load automatically and appear at the bottom of the **Library** menu.

## Dummy .fp Files for Support Libraries

If you develop a library module to provide support functions for the modules in your project, you can install it as a user library. By doing so, you ensure that the library is always available in the LabWindows/CVI development environment. If you do not want to develop function panels for the library, create a .fp file without any classes or functions. In that case, LabWindows/CVI loads the library at startup but does not include the library name in the **Library** menu.



## System Libraries

LabWindows/CVI includes some low-level system functions. The prototypes for the functions are in `lowlvlbio.h`, and the function panels are in the ANSI C Library.

You can call Windows SDK functions. If you have installed the LabWindows/CVI Full Development System from CD-ROM, you have access to the full set of Windows SDK functions. Otherwise, you have access only to a subset. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information.

## Tools Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Tools** menu, as shown in Figure 3-19.

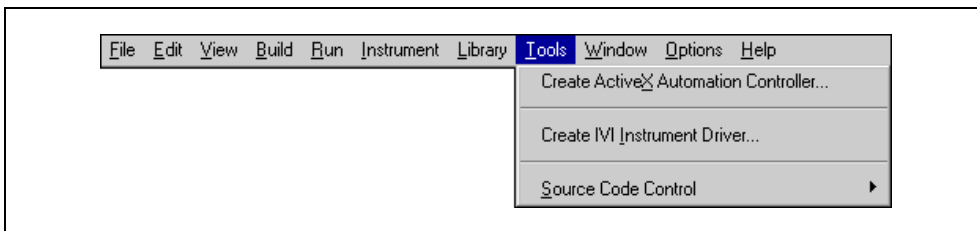


Figure 3-19. Tools Menu

## Create ActiveX Automation Controller

Use the **Create ActiveX Automation Controller** command to generate a new instrument driver for an ActiveX Automation server. When you select the **Create ActiveX Automation Controller** command, LabWindows/CVI displays the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard. Click on the **Next** button on the wizard's Welcome panel to view the wizard's **Choose Server** panel.

### Choose Server Panel

The **Choose Server** panel of the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard has the following options:

- **ActiveX Automation Server**—This list box contains the ActiveX Automation servers on the current machine. LabWindows/CVI extracts this list from the system Registry. Select the ActiveX Automation Server for which you want to generate an instrument driver.
- **Browse**—Use this button to browse for an ActiveX Automation server object library file on disk. When you select an ActiveX Automation server from the Browse dialog box,

LabWindows/CVI adds the server to the system Registry, if it was not already there, and adds the server to the ActiveX Automation Server list box.

## Configure Panel

The **Configure** panel of the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard has the following options:

- **Automation Server**—The **Automation Server** option displays the name of the ActiveX Automation Server you specified on the **Choose Server** panel.
- **Instrument Prefix**—This option is the instrument prefix for the generated ActiveX Automation Controller instrument driver. You must either leave the control empty or enter a valid C identifier. This string will prefix various source code identifiers in the generated instrument driver.
- **Target .fp File**—This option is the pathname of the .fp file into which LabWindows/CVI generates the instrument function panels. The wizard will create source (.c) and header (.h) files with the same directory and base filename as the .fp file. You can select either a new file or an existing file. If you select an existing file, the wizard overwrites the contents of the .fp, source (.c), and header (.h) files.
- **Call Mechanism**—Use this control to select whether the **Generate Instrument Driver** calls the ActiveX Automation Server through `IDispatch` `Invoke` calls or through a dual interface. If the server does not provide a dual interface, then this control is dimmed. If the server provides a dual interface, it is more efficient to make calls through the dual interface. If you choose dual interface, the wizard generates wrapper functions to get and set each property exposed by the server, and the **Generate Per-Object Property Access Functions** control is dimmed.
- **Generate Per-Object Property Access Functions**—Enable this option to make the wizard generate get and set property functions for each object in the server. If you do not enable this option, the wizard generates single `GetProperty` and `SetProperty` functions through which you get and set properties for all objects in the server.

## Advanced Panel

Click on the **Advanced Options** button to view the Automation Controller Advanced Options Dialog box. Use this dialog box if you want to include only a subset of the server's objects in the instrument driver or if you want to make changes to the default source code identifiers.

Use the Automation Controller Advanced Options Dialog box to select the objects you want to include in the instrument driver and to change the names of the generated functions and properties. Refer to your server documentation to determine which objects you want to use. Many servers provide online help that you can access from the dialog box. Selecting a large number of server objects results in large source files and longer compile times.

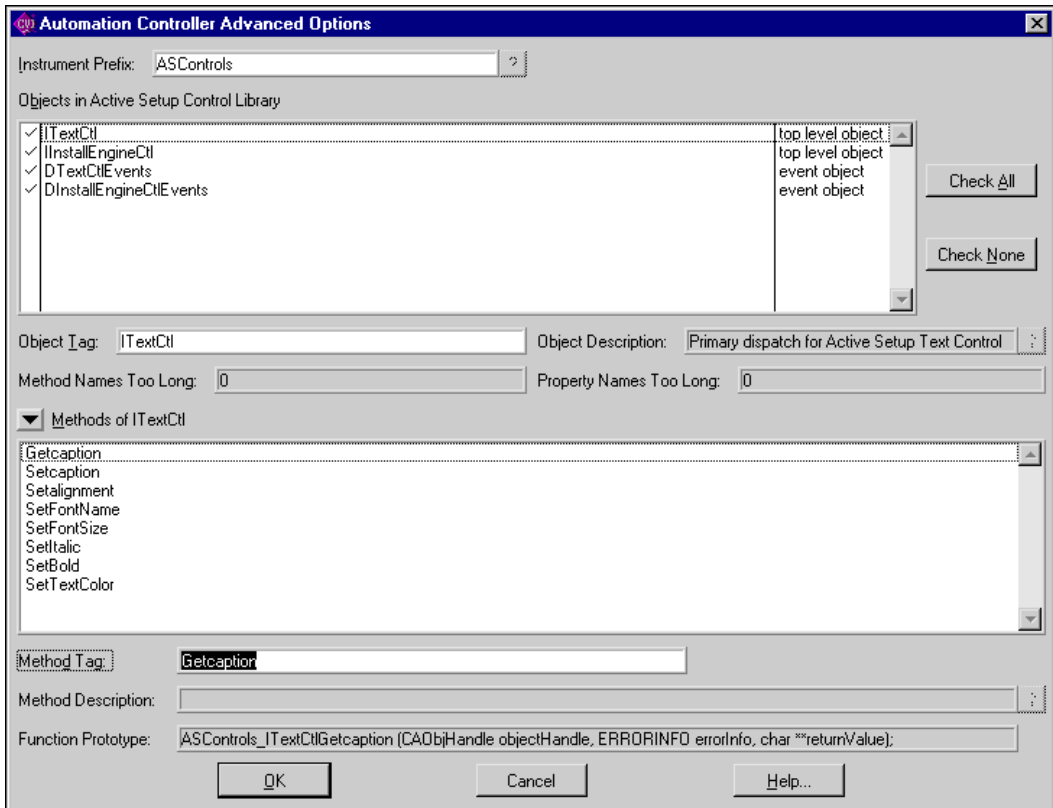
The ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard generates various types of functions. You can use a method function to invoke a method of an object. The driver contains a separate method function for each method of each object. You can use the object creation functions to create top-level objects. After you have created a top-level object, you can create other objects using the property and methods functions. Three object creation functions exist for each top-level object.

If you chose **Call Methods Directly Through the Dual Interface** in the **Call Mechanism** control on the Configure panel of the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard, the wizard generates individual functions to get and set each property in the server. If you choose **Call Methods Through Dispatch Invoke** in the **Call Mechanism** control on the Configure panel of the wizard, the wizard generates either a single set of get and set property functions for the whole instrument driver or get and set property functions for each object in the instrument driver. If the wizard generates get and set property functions, you use a property constant to identify a specific property to a property function.

LabWindows/CVI concatenates the instrument prefix, an object tag, and a property or method tag to create each constant name and method function name in the instrument driver. You can specify the object, method, and property tags, but the dialog box provides default values. The default value for a tag is the object name, method name, or property name that the server object library defines.

Given the size of object and method names in some servers, some of the function names suggested in the Automation Controller Advanced Options dialog box can be very long. However, the function panel file format imposes a limit of 79 characters, excluding the instrument prefix and underscore. In addition, the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard imposes a limit of 79 characters on property constants, excluding the instrument prefix and underscore. Therefore, it might be necessary for you to edit the object, property, and method tags to make the function names and property constants smaller. To assist you, the dialog box flags names that are too long. The dialog box also automatically abbreviates object, property, and method tags for common ActiveX Automation servers, such as Microsoft Excel 8.0. If you have names that are too long, you should abbreviate object tags before abbreviating property and method tags. Because LabWindows/CVI does not include the instrument prefix in the name length limit, abbreviating it does not allow you to have longer property, method, or object tags.

When you click on the **Advanced Options** button on the Advanced panel of the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard, the Automation Controller Advanced Options dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 3-20.



**Figure 3-20.** Automation Controller Advanced Options Dialog Box

The Automation Controller Advanced Options dialog box has the following options:

- **Instrument Prefix**—This list box contains the instrument prefix for the generated ActiveX Automation Controller instrument driver. You must either leave the control empty or enter a valid C identifier of up to eight characters.
- **Objects in ActiveX Automation Server**—This list box displays the objects in the ActiveX Automation server. Indicate the object(s) to include in the generated instrument driver by checking the list box entries.

The second column of this list box indicates which objects are top-level objects or event objects. For each selected top-level object, the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard generates `NewObject`, `OpenObject`, and `ActiveObject` functions. You must use one of these functions to create an ActiveX Automation object before you can use any of the

other functions in the instrument driver. You create all other objects in the ActiveX Automation server through methods and properties of the top-level objects.

Event objects are a collection of events generated by the ActiveX Automation server. For each selected event object, the wizard generates a set of functions you can use to register callbacks for each event. The callbacks are called when the server fires the events.

- **Object Tag**—This list box contains the tag associated with the currently selected object. LabWindows/CVI adds this tag to the method and property tags to create the method function and property constant names. This string must contain only valid C identifier characters.
- **Object Description**—This list box is a description of the currently selected object. Some ActiveX Automation servers do not provide this description.
- **Method Names Too Long**—This list box contains the number of methods of the currently selected object with generated function names that are longer than 79 characters. LabWindows/CVI constructs a method function name by appending the **Method Tag** to the **Object Tag**. You can reduce the length of a method function name by editing the **Object Tag** or **Method Tag**.
- **Property Names Too Long**—This list box contains the number of properties of the currently selected object with generated constant names that are longer than 79 characters. LabWindows/CVI constructs a property constant name by appending the **Property Tag** to the **Object Tag**. You can reduce the length of a property constant name by editing the **Object Tag** or **Property Tag**.
- **Methods/Properties Menu Ring**—Use this ring control to display the methods or properties of the selected object. The ring control setting determines whether the list box below the ring control displays method or property names. This ring setting also changes the other options displayed in the dialog box.
- **Methods of Object**—This box contains the method names of the currently selected object. The `name too long` message appears to the right of methods that yield function names that are too long.

If you choose **Call Methods Directly Through the Dual Interface** in the **Call Mechanism** control on the **Configure** panel of the ActiveX Automation Controller Wizard, the get and set functions for the properties are also listed here.

- **Method Tag**—LabWindows/CVI appends this string to the **Object Tag** to construct the function name for the currently selected method. This string must contain only valid C identifier characters.
- **Method Description**—This list box contains a description of the currently selected method. Some ActiveX Automation servers do not provide this description.
- **Function Prototype**—This list box contains the prototype of the function to be generated for the currently selected method. This prototype does not include the function return type and calling convention.

- **Properties of Object**—This list box contains the property names of the currently selected object. The name too long message appears to the right of properties that yield function names that are too long. Set the menu ring to **Properties** to see properties in the list box.  
If you choose **Call Methods Directly Through the Dual Interface** in the **Call Mechanism** control on the Configure panel of the wizard, then the Get and Set functions for the properties are listed in the **Methods of Object** listbox and this listbox is empty.
- **Property Tag**—LabWindows/CVI appends this string to the **Object Tag** to construct the generated name for this property. This string must contain only valid C identifier characters.
- **Property Description**—This list box is a description of the currently selected property. Some ActiveX Automation servers do not provide this description.
- **Context-Sensitive Help Buttons**—These buttons, labeled with a question mark, display help for the server, object, method, or property. If the server does not provide help for an item, the corresponding context-sensitive **Help** button dims.
- **Cancel**—This button discards the changes you made and closes the Automation Controller Advanced Options dialog box.
- **Help**—This button displays help for the Automation Controller Advanced Options dialog box.

## Create IVI Instrument Driver

Select **Tools»Create IVI Instrument Driver** to open the Instrument Driver Development Wizard, to create the source file, include file, and function panel file for controlling an instrument. You can base the new instrument driver on one of the following:

- An existing driver for a similar instrument
- The core IVI driver template
- An IVI instrument class template

The Instrument Driver Development Wizard copies the template or existing driver files and replaces all instances of the original instrument prefix with the prefix you select for your new driver.

Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on the Instrument Driver Development Wizard.

## Source Code Control

The **Source Code Control** submenu contains menu items that you can use to perform operations with your source code control system. LabWindows/CVI does not provide a source code control system. If you have a source code control system that implements the standard Source Code Control Interface, you can attach a LabWindows/CVI project to your source

code system using the Source Code Control Options dialog box. Use the **Source Code Control Options** command in the Project window **Options** menu to bring up the Source Code Control Options dialog box.

The exact behavior of the commands in the **Source Code Control** submenu depends on the implementation of the Source Code Control Interface provided by your source code control system. The commands are also affected by the settings in the Source Code Control Options dialog box. Refer to the [Source Code Control Options](#) section later in this chapter for information on the Source Code Control Options dialog box.

Some of the source code control commands, when selected from the Project window, bring up a Select Files dialog box. This dialog box is not displayed when the source code control commands are selected from source, header, function tree, or user interface editor **Source Code Control** submenu. Use the File Select dialog box to select the files you want to include in the operation and to set any available options for the operation. If your Source Code Control Interface supports setting any source code control system specific options for the operation, the **Advanced** button on the Select Files dialog box is available. Click on the **Advanced** button to set the available options.

Source Code Control commands and options are dimmed if the Source Code Control Interface provided by your source code control system does not support the command or option.

- **Get Latest Version**—Use this command to get the latest version of the selected files from the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Get Latest Versions of All**—Use this command to get the latest version of all files in the project.
- **Check Out**—Use this command to check out the selected files from the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Check In**—Use this command to check the selected files into the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Undo Check Out**—Use this command to undo the check out action previously performed on the selected files.
- **Add File to Source Control**—Use this command to add the selected files to the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Remove From Source Control**—Use this command to remove the selected files from the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Show History**—Use this command to view the source code control history for the selected file.

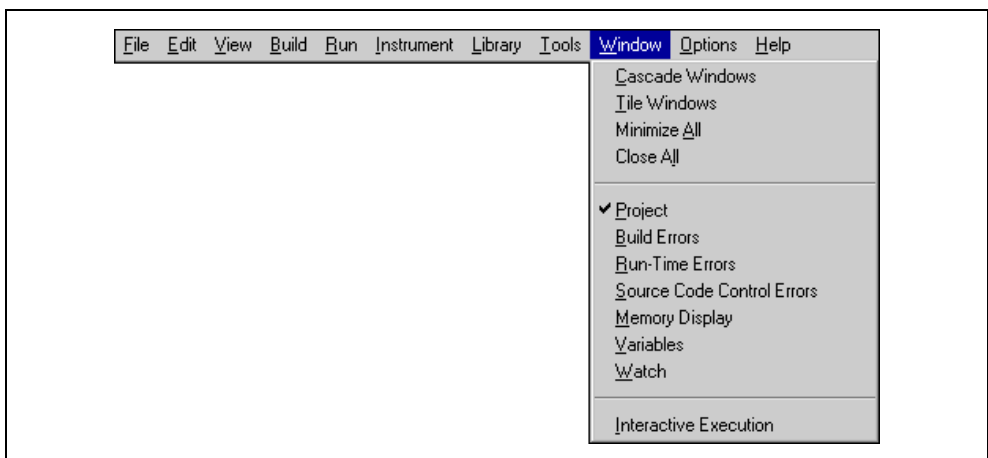
- **Show Differences**—Use this command to view the differences between the selected file on disk and the latest version in the source code control system.
- **Properties**—Use this command to view the source code control properties and status of the selected file.
- **Refresh Status**—Use this command to have LabWindows/CVI update the source code control status of the files. If you use the source code control system GUI to change the status files in your source code control system, LabWindows/CVI may not know about these changes until you select **Refresh Status**.
- **Source Code Control**—Use this command to launch the GUI interface provided by your source code control system.
- **Clear Source Code Control Error Window**—Use this command to clear the contents of the Source Code Control Error window.

## User-Defined Entries in the Tools Menu

You can install your own entries in the **Tools** menu. Each entry invokes an executable with optional command line arguments. Select **Options»Tools Menu Options** in the Project window to add your own entries to the **Tools** menu.

## Window Menu

You use commands in the **Window** menu, shown in Figure 3-21, to bring any open window to the front for viewing or editing.



**Figure 3-21.** Window Menu



## Cascade Windows

Use this command to arrange all open windows so that each title bar is visible.

## Tile Windows

Use this command to arrange all open windows in smaller sizes to fit next to each other.

## Minimize All

The **Minimize All** command hides all the LabWindows/CVI windows, including the Project window and any User Interface Library panels displayed by a program you are currently executing. You can restore the windows by clicking on LabWindows/CVI in the Windows task bar.

## Close All

The **Close All** command closes all the LabWindows/CVI windows, excluding the Project window and any User Interface Library panels displayed by a program you are currently executing.

## Project

Use this command to bring the Project window to the front.

## Build Errors

If you attempt to build a project and the project has build errors, such as syntax or link errors, the Build Errors window contains a list of the errors. To bring the Build Errors window to the front for viewing, select **Window»Build Errors** in the Project window.

## Run-Time Errors

If you attempt to run a project and the project has run-time errors, such as over-indexing an array, the Run-Time Errors window contains a list of the errors. To bring the Run-Time Errors window to the front for viewing, select **Window»Run-Time Errors** in the Project window.

The Run-time Errors window also displays the output of the Utility Library `ErrorPrintf` function.

## Debug Output

The Debug Output window contains the output of the Utility library `DebugPrintf` function as well as the output of the Windows SDK `OutputDebugString` function.

## Source Code Control Errors

This window displays warning and errors returned by source code control systems when you execute commands from the **Source Code Control** submenu of the **Tools** menu.

## Memory Display

The **Memory Display** command opens the Memory Display window that you can use to view and edit the memory of the program you are debugging. This window allows you to view and edit the data in hexadecimal (byte, word, long), decimal (byte, word, long), single-precision floating point, double-precision floating point, or ASCII representation. You must enable the Edit Mode option before you can modify the process' memory. To change the value of a memory location, click on that cell in the Memory Display window and type in the new value.

## Variables

Use this command to bring the Variables window to the front. The Variables window shows the contents of all variables currently defined in LabWindows/CVI. You can access the Array Display and String Display windows from the Variables window.

The Variables window is useful for debugging programs. LabWindows/CVI updates the Variables window at each breakpoint, and you can modify the variables while in a breakpoint state.

Refer to Chapter 7, *Variables and Watch Windows*, for more information about the Variables window.

## Watch

The **Watch** command brings the Watch window to the front. The Watch window shows a set of variables and expressions that you specify. You can access the Array Display and String Display windows from the Watch window.

The Watch window is useful for debugging programs. Watch variables and expressions update at each breakpoint unless you set them to update continuously.

Refer to Chapter 7, *Variables and Watch Windows*, for more information about the Watch window.

## Array Display and String Display

If any Array Display or String Display windows are active, they appear in the **View** menu. Selecting one of these windows from the **Window** menu brings it to the front for viewing and editing. Refer to Chapter 8, *Array and String Display Windows*, for a complete description of Array Display and String Display windows.

## User Interface

All open User Interface Resource (.uir) files dynamically appear in the **Window** menu. If the file is in the project, only the filename appears. If the file is not in the project, the full pathname appears. Select a .uir file from this menu to bring the corresponding User Interface Editor window to the front. Refer to Chapter 4, [User Interface Editor Window](#), for a complete description of User Interface Editor windows.

## Function Panel

All open Function Panel windows dynamically appear in the **Window** menu. Select a Function Panel window from this menu to bring that window to the front. Refer to Chapter 6, [Using Function Panels](#), for a complete description of Function Panel windows.

## Function Tree

All open Function Tree files dynamically appear in the **Window** menu. If the file is in the project, only the filename appears. If the file is not in the project, the full pathname appears. Select a .fp file from this menu to bring the corresponding Function Tree Editor window to the front. Refer to Chapter 2, *The Function Tree Editor*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for a complete description of Function Tree Editor windows.

## Help Editor

All open Help Editor windows dynamically appear in the **Window** menu. Select a Help Editor window from this menu to bring that Help Editor window to the front. Refer to Chapter 4, *Adding Help Information*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information about the Help Editor window.

## Interactive Execution

Use the **Interactive Execution** command to bring the Interactive Execution window to the front. Unlike the Source window, you can execute incomplete programs in the Interactive Execution window. For example, you can execute variable declarations and assignment statements in C without declaring a main function. Refer to Chapter 5, [Source and Interactive Execution Windows](#), for more information about the Interactive Execution window.

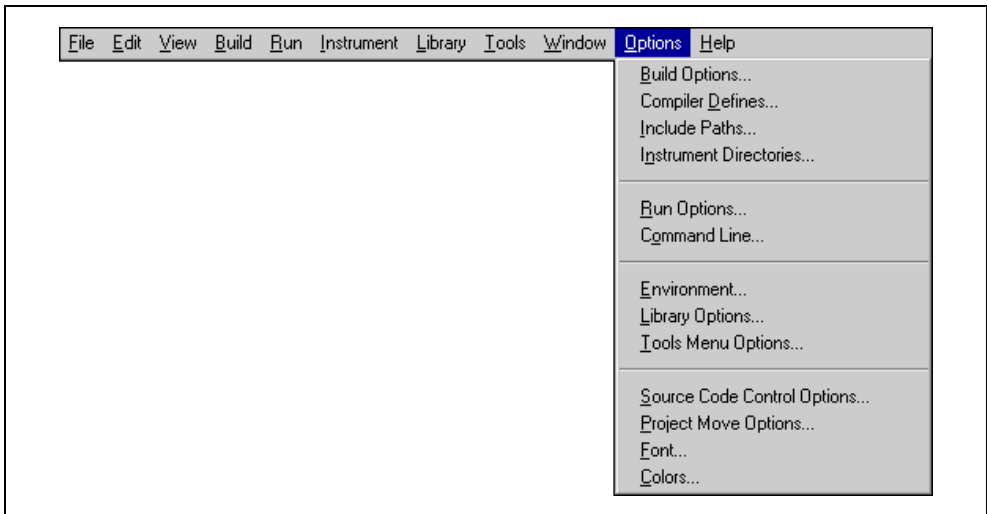
## Open Source Files

The **Window** menu lists open source files at the bottom. If the file is in the project, only the filename appears. If the file is not in the project, the full pathname appears. Select a source file from this menu to bring its window to the front. Refer to Chapter 5, [Source and Interactive Execution Windows](#), for more information about the Source window.

# Options Menu

You use commands in the **Options** menu to set up preferences in the LabWindows/CVI environment, and execute various utilities.

This section explains how to use the commands in the Project window **Options** menu, as shown in Figure 3-22.



**Figure 3-22.** Options Menu

## Build Options

You can set the LabWindows/CVI compiler options by selecting **Options»Build Options** in the Project window. This command opens a dialog box that allows you to set the following LabWindows/CVI compiler options:

- **Compatibility With**—This option displays the current compiler compatibility mode. For more information on external compiler compatibility, refer to the *Compatibility with External Compilers* section in Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*.
- **Default Calling Convention**—This option sets the compiler's default calling convention, unless the compatible compiler is Watcom. For other compilers, the default calling convention is normally `__cdecl` but can be changed to `__stdcall`. For Watcom, it is always the stack-based calling convention. Do not change the default calling convention to `__stdcall` if you plan to generate static library or object files for all four compatible external compilers. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information.



**Note** Because you cannot set the default calling convention to `__stdcall` in the Watcom compiler or in LabWindows/CVI, when in Watcom compatibility mode, you must use `__cdecl` as the default convention when you create object files, libraries, or DLLs for all four external compilers.



**Note** If you want to create an object file, static library file, or DLL that exports functions with the `__stdcall` calling convention, it is a good idea to explicitly declare the functions as `__stdcall` in the include (.h) file and the source (.c) file rather than relying on the **Default Calling Convention** option. If you do not explicitly declare the functions as `__stdcall` in the include file and if another developer uses the object file, library file, or DLL in LabWindows/CVI or an external compiler without setting the default calling convention to `__stdcall`, the functions do not work correctly.

- **Maximum Number of Compile Errors**—This option sets an upper limit on the number of compile errors LabWindows/CVI lists in the Build Errors window for each source file.
- **Maximum Stack Size (bytes)**—Your program uses the stack for passing function parameters and storing automatic local variables. By setting a stack limit, LabWindows/CVI can catch infinitely recursive functions and report a stack overflow. Refer to Chapter 1, *LabWindows/CVI Compiler*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for limitations on the stack size.
- **Debugging Level**—This setting is only used when the **Debug** item is checked in the Configuration submenu of the **Build** menu in the Project window. When the **Release** item is checked in the Configuration submenu, source modules are compiled without debugging information. Refer to the [Configuration](#) section earlier in this chapter for information on the Configuration submenu.

The following three debugging levels exist for the source modules in your application.

- **No Run-time Checking**—In this mode, you can set breakpoints and use the Variables window. You have no protection from run-time memory errors, and you cannot use the **Break on Library Errors** option.
- **Standard**—In this mode, you can set breakpoints, use the Variables window, and use the **Break on Library Errors** option. You also have protection from run-time memory errors. Refer to Chapter 1, *LabWindows/CVI Compiler*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information.
- **Extended**—This mode has the same benefits as Standard mode, with added user protection that validates every attempt to free dynamically allocated memory by verifying that the address you pass is actually the beginning of an allocated block.
- **Require Function Prototypes**—This option requires you to precede all function references with a full prototype declaration. A full prototype includes the function return type and the types of each parameter. If a function has no parameters, a full prototype must have the `void` keyword to indicate this case. A *new style* function definition (one in which you declare parameters directly in the parameter list) can serve as a prototype.

Missing prototype errors can occur at the following places:

- Typedefs such as `typedef void FUNTYPE()`
- Function pointer declarations such as `void (*fp)()` whether used as a global, local, parameter, array element, or structure member
- *Old style* function definitions, in which you declare parameters outside of the parameter list, that you do not precede with a full prototype
- Function call expressions such as `(*fp)()`, where `fp` does not have a full prototype



**Caution** It is best to enable the Require Function Prototypes option. If disabled, some of the run-time error checking is also disabled.

- **Require Return Values for Non-void Functions**—This option generates compile warnings for non-void functions, except `main`, that do not end with a `return` statement that returns a value. LabWindows/CVI reports a run-time error when a non-void function executes without returning a value.

For example, the following code always produces a compile-time warning, and it produces a run-time error when `flag` is `FALSE`.

```
int fun (void)
{
    if (flag) {
        return 0;
    }
}
```

- **Enable Signed/Unsigned Pointer Mismatch Warning**—This option generates a compiler warning for pointer assignments in which the left side and right side are not both signed or unsigned expressions. According to the ANSI C standard, these assignments are errors because they involve incompatible types. In practice, however, such assignments cause no problems.

The LabWindows/CVI compiler checks assignment statements and function call arguments to ensure that the `lvalue` and `rvalue` expressions have compatible types. If you enable the **Enable Signed/Unsigned Pointer Mismatch Warning** option, LabWindows/CVI generates compile warnings when the `lvalue` and `rvalue` expressions are both pointers to integers but one points to a signed integer and the other points to an unsigned integer. For example, the LabWindows/CVI compiler generates a signed type mismatch between pointer to char and pointer to unsigned char warning on the call to `MyFunction` in the following code example.

```
void MyFunction (unsigned char *x);
char *y = "my string";
main () {
    MyFunction (y);
}
```

- **Enable Unreachable Code Warning**—This option generates a compiler warning for statements that the compiler cannot reach on execution. When you enable the **Enable Unreachable Code Warning** option, the LabWindows/CVI compiler generates a warning at each line of code that cannot be reached during the execution of your program. For example, LabWindows/CVI reports a warning on the break statement in the following code.

```
switch (intval){
    case 4:
        return 0;
        break;
}
```

- **Track Include File Dependencies**—This option keeps the project up-to-date by tracking the dependencies between source files and include files. Whenever you modify a file, LabWindows/CVI marks for compilation all source files that include the modified file.
- **Prompt for Include File Paths**—This option sets LabWindows/CVI to prompt you to make a manual search for any header files listed in the `#include` lines that the compiler cannot find. When you find them, you can automatically insert the appropriate path into the Include Paths list for the project.
- **Stop on First File with Errors**—This option sets the LabWindows/CVI compiler to terminate compilation after it finds one file with errors. Using this option, you can correct build errors in your project one file at a time.
- **Show Build Error Window for Warnings**—This option sets the LabWindows/CVI compiler to open the Build Error window when warnings occur, even if no errors exist. If you deactivate it, warnings can occur without being brought to your attention.
- **Display Status Dialog Box During Build**—This option displays a status dialog box during the build that shows the name of the file being compiled, the number of errors and warnings encountered, and a percent completed value. Your project compiles faster when you disable this feature.

## Compiler Defines

The LabWindows/CVI compiler accepts compiler defines through the **Compiler Defines** command in the **Options** menu of the Project window.

Compiler defines have the following syntax:

```
/Dx or /Dx=y
```

The variable `x` is a valid C identifier. You can use `x` in your source code as a predefined macro. For example, you can use `x` as the argument to the `#if` or `#ifdef` preprocessor directive for conditional compilation. If `y` contains embedded blanks, you must surround it with double quotation marks.

The Compiler Defines dialog box contains a list of the macros that LabWindows/CVI predefines. This list includes the name and value of each predefined macro. LabWindows/CVI predefines the following macros to help you write platform-dependent code.

- `_CVI_` is defined to be 1 in LabWindows/CVI version 3.0, 301 in version 3.0.1, and 310 in version 3.1, and so on.
- `_NI_mswin_`.
- `_NI_mswin32_`.
- `_NI_i386_`.
- `_CVI_DEBUG_` is defined if the **Debug** item is checked in the **Configuration** submenu of the Project window **Build** menu. The value of the macro is 1.
- `_CVI_EXE_` is defined if the project **Target Type** is **Executable**.
- `_CVI_DLL_` is defined if **Target Type** is **Dynamic Link Library**.
- `_CVI_LIB_` is defined if **Target Type** is **Static Library**.
- `__DEFALIGN` is defined to the default structure alignment: 8 for Microsoft and Symantec; 1 for Borland and Watcom.
- `_NI_VC_` is defined to 220 if in Microsoft Visual C/C++ compatibility mode.
- `_NI_SC_` is defined to 720 if in Symantec C/C++ compatibility mode.
- `_NI_BC_` is defined to 451 if in Borland C/C++ mode.
- `_NI_WC_` is defined to 1050 if in Watcom C/C++ mode.
- `_WINDOWS`.
- `WIN32`.
- `_WIN32`.
- `__WIN32__`.
- `__NT__`.
- `_M_Ix86` is defined to 400.
- `__FLAT__` is defined to 1.



**Note** LabWindows/CVI does not define `_MSC_VER`, `__BORLANDC__`, `__WATCOMC__`, and `__SC__`. The external compilers each define one of these macros. If you port code originally developed under one of these external compilers to LabWindows/CVI, you might have to manually define one of these macros.

The default Compiler Defines string contains the following definition:

```
/DWIN32_MEAN_AND_LEAN
```



This definition reduces the time and memory taken when compiling Windows SDK include files. For more information, refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information.

## Include Paths

The **Include Paths** command invokes a dialog box in which you can list paths that the compiler uses when searching for header files with simple pathnames. The Include Paths dialog box has two lists of paths in which to search for include files. LabWindows/CVI saves the top list with the project file. LabWindows/CVI saves the bottom list from one session to another on the same machine, regardless of the project. Refer to Chapter 1, *LabWindows/CVI Compiler*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for a description of the entire include path search precedence.

## Instrument Directories

Use the **Instrument Directories** command to list directories that LabWindows/CVI can search for instrument drivers on which other instrument drivers depend. The .fp files of the dependent drivers store the names of the .fp files of the drivers on which they depend. When loading an instrument .fp file that references other instrument .fp files, LabWindows/CVI tries to find the referenced instrument .fp files and load them. It searches for each .fp file in the following directories and in the following order:

1. The directory of the referencing .fp file
2. The directories listed in the Instrument Directories dialog box
3. The subdirectories under the cvi\toolslib directory
4. The cvi\instr directory

LabWindows/CVI saves the Instrument Directories list from one session to another.

To find out more about referencing one instrument from another, refer to Chapter 5, *Function Tree Editor*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information.

You also use the Instrument Directories list when you load a project file that you have moved since you last saved it. If a .fp file listed in the project cannot be found using either its original pathname in the project or its location relative to the project, LabWindows/CVI searches the Instrument Directories list for a .fp file with the same base name.

## Run Options

The **Run Options** command invokes a dialog box you use to set the following options:

- **Save Changes Before Running**—You can configure LabWindows/CVI to never save modified files, to always save modified files, or to ask whether to save modified files before running.
- **Break on Library Errors**—When you enable this checkbox, a breakpoint occurs when any function call to a LabWindows/CVI library results in an error.
- **Break On First Chance Exceptions**—Enable this option if, when an exception occurs in your program, you want LabWindows/CVI to suspend your programs before giving your program a chance to handle the exception. Remove the checkmark from this option if you are debugging code that generates exceptions that are handled by the code itself.
- **Hide Windows**—When you enable this checkbox, the LabWindows/CVI environment hides all its windows until execution terminates or a breakpoint occurs.

## Command Line

Use the **Command Line** command to enter the command line arguments for your program. When you run your program in the LabWindows/CVI environment, LabWindows/CVI passes the command line arguments to your `main` function in the **argc** and **argv** parameters.

If your project makes a DLL, you can pass command line arguments to an external program that you run to debug the DLL. Specify the external program pathname and command line arguments using the **Select External Process** command in the **Run** menu. The same command line arguments appear when you select the **Command Line** command from the **Options** menu.

## Environment

The **Environment** command invokes a dialog box you use to set the following options:

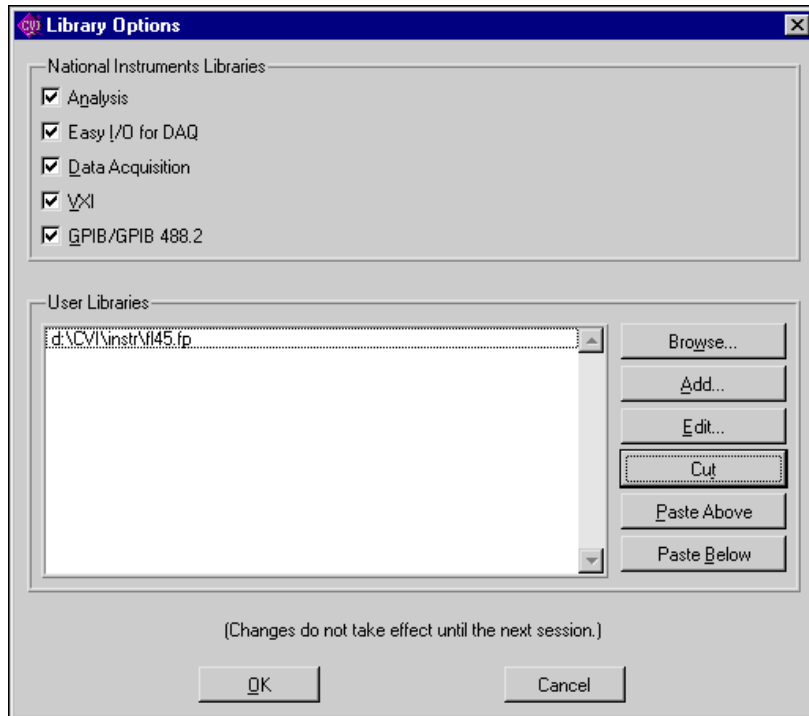
- **CVI Environment Sleep Policy**—Each time LabWindows/CVI checks an event from the operating system, it can put itself in the background, in *sleep mode*, for a specified period of time. While LabWindows/CVI is in sleep mode, other applications have more processor time. However, LabWindows/CVI might run slower. You can specify how much LabWindows/CVI sleeps. You have the following sleep policy choices.
  - Do not sleep
  - Sleep some (sleep a short period of time)
  - Sleep more (sleep a longer period of time, the default setting)

The setting that is optimal for you depends on the operating system you are using and the other applications you are running. Generally, for Windows National Instruments recommends the sleep more mode. If you think you might have to make an adjustment, try the different settings and observe the resulting behavior.

- **Interactive Window Memory Size**—Use this control to set the amount of memory reserved for executing function panels or code in the interactive window. If LabWindows/CVI displays the message “**Insufficient memory for Interactive window**”, you must increase this value, select the **Clear Interactive Declarations** command from the Interactive Execution window **Build** menu, and then execute the interactive window statements again.
- **Use Only One Function Panel Window**—Enable this option to overwrite the current function panel window each time you select a new function panel window.
- **Goto Source After Inserting Code from Function Panel**—Enable this option if you want LabWindows/CVI to close the function panel window after you execute the **Insert Function Call** command in the function panel window.
- **Check Foreground Lockout Setting on Startup (Win2000/98only)**—Windows 2000 and Windows 98, by default, try to prevent applications from bringing themselves to the front. This behavior prevents LabWindows/CVI from bringing its windows to the front when debugging your programs. Enable this option if you want LabWindows/CVI to check, on startup, the system setting that prevents applications from bringing themselves to the front. If you enable this option, LabWindows/CVI prompts you if the system settings will prevent LabWindows/CVI windows from coming to the front.
- **Enable Data Tool Tips**—Enable this option if you want LabWindows/CVI to display the value of variables and highlighted expressions when you place the mouse cursor over the variables or highlighted expressions in a Source window.
- **Use Console Window for Standard I/O When Debugging**—Enable this option if you want LabWindows/CVI to use the Microsoft DOS console window for printing output strings and scanning input strings while you debug a project. This option is enabled by default.
- **Force Loaded Instrument Driver’s Source into Interactive Window**—Enable this option if you run a function panel or interactive window code that loads the source file for an instrument driver that is currently loaded in the **Instrument** menu, through `LoadExternalModule` or `LoadExternalModuleEx`.
- **Force Project Source Files into Interactive Window**—Enable this option if you run a function panel or interactive window code that loads a source file that is in the currently loaded project through `LoadExternalModule` or `LoadExternalModuleEx`.

## Library Options

You use the **Library Options** command to specify optional National Instrument libraries that load automatically when you start LabWindows/CVI. You also can specify which of the optional National Instruments user libraries to load on startup using the **Library Options** command. The **Library Options** command invokes the Library Options dialog box, which contains National Instruments Libraries and User Libraries, as shown in Figure 3-23.



**Figure 3-23.** Library Options Dialog Box

## National Instruments Libraries

There are five optional National Instruments libraries:

- Advanced Analysis
- Easy I/O for DAQ
- Data Acquisition
- VXI
- GPIB/GPIB 488.2

In the National Instruments section, click on the selection box to the left of the library name(s) that you want LabWindows/CVI to load at startup. Use the National Instruments Libraries section of the Library Options dialog box to specify whether or not to load these libraries into memory when you start LabWindows/CVI. A checkmark next to the library name indicates that you want the library to be loaded. Changes do not take effect until the next time you launch LabWindows/CVI.

If you do not load a library, you cannot call any of the functions in that library and you cannot access any of its function panels.

If LabWindows/CVI fails to load a requested library, it is probably because LabWindows/CVI cannot find the appropriate files. The files in Table 3-3 belong in the `bin` directory of the LabWindows/CVI installation directory.

**Table 3-3.** Libraries in the bin Directory of LabWindows/CVI

Library	Windows
Analysis or Advanced Analysis	<code>analysis.lib</code>
Data Acquisition	<code>dataacq.lib</code>
Easy I/O for DAQ	<code>easyio.lib</code>
VXI	<code>nivxi.lib</code>
GPIB/GPIB 488.2	<code>gpib.lib</code>

You must also install the drivers that came with your Data Acquisition, VXI, and GPIB/GPIB 488.2 hardware to use the optional libraries.

## User Libraries

The User Libraries section of the Library Options dialog box contains the pathnames of user libraries that load automatically when you start LabWindows/CVI. The entries must be the pathnames of the function panel (`.fnp`) files for the library modules. Because a user library has the same form as an instrument driver, anything you can load from the **Instrument** menu also can be loaded as a user library, provided it is in compiled form. Refer to the [Instrument Driver Files](#) discussion in the [Using Instrument Drivers](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information about loaded `.fnp` files.

The main difference between modules loaded as instrument drivers and those loaded as user libraries is that you can unload instrument drivers using the **Unload** command in the **Instrument** menu, but you cannot unload user libraries. Also, because user libraries must be in compiled form, you cannot edit them while they are loaded as libraries. Refer to Chapter 3, *Developing an Instrument Driver*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for information about writing an instrument driver.

You specify user libraries using the **Library Options** command in the **Options** menu. LabWindows/CVI does not load the libraries or show them in the **Library** menu until the next time you launch LabWindows/CVI.

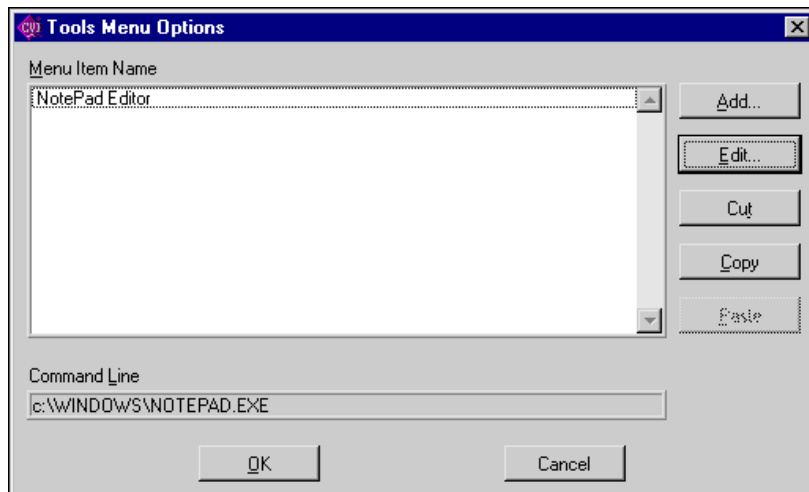
## Dummy .fp Files for Support Libraries

If you develop a library module to provide support functions for the modules in your project, you can install it as a user library. By doing so, you ensure that the library is always available in the LabWindows/CVI development environment. If you do not want to develop function panels for the library, create a .fp file without any classes or functions. In that case, LabWindows/CVI loads the library at startup but does not include the library name in the **Library** menu.

## Tools Menu Options

Use the **Tools Menu Options** command to add your own menu items to the **Tools** menu. Each entry consists of a menu item name and an associated command line to execute. Each command line consists of a program name and optional arguments. When you execute an item from the **Tools** menu, LabWindows/CVI calls a system function to start the program as another process.

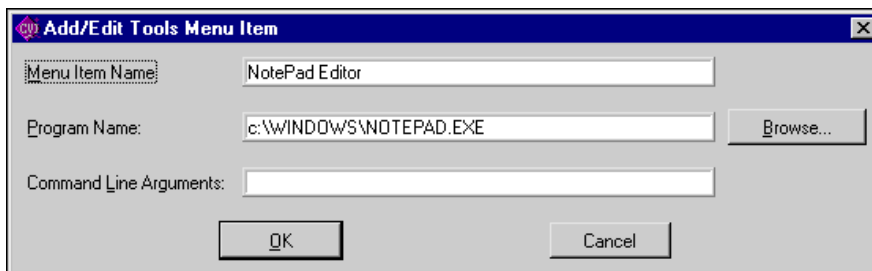
The **Tools Menu Options** command invokes the Tools Menu Options dialog box, as shown in Figure 3-24.



**Figure 3-24.** Tools Menu Options Dialog Box

- **Menu Item Name**—A list box that contains your current **Tools** menu entries.
- **Command Line**—An indicator that shows the command line for the currently selected menu item name.
- **Add**—Click on this button to add a new entry.
- **Edit**—Click on this button to edit the selected entry.

The **Add** and **Edit** buttons open the Add/Edit Tools Menu Item dialog box, as shown in Figure 3-25.



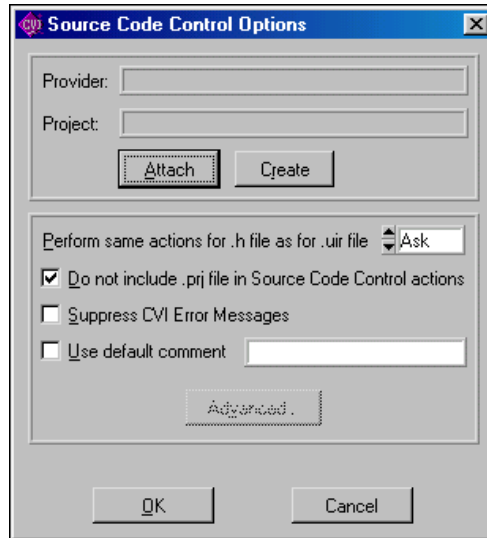
**Figure 3-25.** Add/Edit Tools Menu Item Dialog Box

- **Menu Item Name**—The string that appears in the **Tools** menu. To specify an accelerator key for the menu item, insert two underscores in front of the designated letter.
- **Program Name**—The pathname of the program to execute when you select the menu entry. You can specify full pathname, simple filename, or a relative pathname. You can use the **Browse** button to look for the program on disk.
- **Command Line Arguments**—Arguments you want to pass to the program. You can leave this entry blank.

LabWindows/CVI saves your **Tools** menu entries from one session to another, not in the project.

## Source Code Control Options

The **Source Code Control Options** command brings up the Source Code Control Options dialog box, as shown in Figure 3-26.



**Figure 3-26.** Source Code Control Options Dialog Box

- **Provider**—The name of the source code control system that contains the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Project**—The name of the source code control project attached to the currently loaded LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Attach**—Use this button to attach an existing source code control system project to the current LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Create**—Use this button to create a new source code control system project and attach it to the current LabWindows/CVI project.
- **Perform Same Actions for .h File as for .uir File**—Because LabWindows/CVI generates a .uir header file each time the uir file is saved, it is a good idea to perform the same source code actions on the header file as you perform on the .uir file.
  - **Ask**—When you perform a source code control action, LabWindows/CVI asks if you want to perform the same action on the header file and on the associated .uir file.
  - **Always**—When you perform a source code control action, LabWindows/CVI will automatically performs the same action on the header file and on the associated .uir file.



- **Never**—When you perform a source code control action, LabWindows/CVI does not perform the same action on the header file and on the associated `.uir` file.
- **Do Not Include .prj File in SCC Actions**—Enable this option if you do not want LabWindows/CVI to automatically include the LabWindows/CVI project file in source code control operations. This options always applies to the **Get Latest Version of All** command. It applies to other commands when they are executed from the Project window and no project files are selected.
- **Suppress CVI Error Messages**—Some source code control systems display their own dialog boxes when errors occur during a source code control operation. Enabling this option suppresses all LabWindows/CVI error dialog boxes displayed when an error is reported by the source code control system.
- **Use Default Checkin Comment**—Enable this option if you do not want to be prompted for a comment when you check in or add files to a source code control project. Enter the comment that you want LabWindows/CVI to pass to the source code control system.
- **Advanced**—Click on this button to access advanced options provided by your source code control system. If your source code control system does not provide advanced options, this control is dimmed.

## Project Move Options

This command invokes the Project Move Options dialog box that you use to specify what LabWindows/CVI does when you open the `.prj` file from a different directory than the one you saved it in.

If you enable the **Fixup Pathnames When Project is Moved or CVI is in a Different Directory** option, LabWindows/CVI updates the pathnames in the project, the project include paths, the pathnames in the distribution kit, and the pathnames of executable and icon files whenever you open the project from a directory other than the one you saved it in. LabWindows/CVI assumes that the files in the project have been moved to the same position relative to the `.prj` file. If LabWindows/CVI cannot find one or more files in the project or project include paths, a dialog box appears prompting you to manually confirm those pathnames.

LabWindows/CVI might also adjust pathnames that are relative to the LabWindows/CVI directory or the *VXIplug&play* directory if the directory has changed since you last saved the project.

If `.fp` files in the project cannot be found, LabWindows/CVI searches for them in the directories listed in the Instrument Directories dialog box and in the `cvi/instr` directory.

If you disable this option, LabWindows/CVI does not update pathnames when you move the project or when the LabWindows/CVI and *VXIplug&play* directories change.

## Font

Use the **Font** command to select the font and font size for the text in the Project window.

## Colors

Use the **Colors** menu item to select colors for the Project window, Source windows, Interactive Execution window, Standard I/O window, Watch window, Variables window, String Display window, and Array Display window. The **Colors** menu item does not affect dialog boxes, function panels, and the User Interface Editor window.

The **Colors** menu item opens a dialog box that contains a list box. Each line in the list box describes the purpose of the color and shows its current color state. To change the color, click and hold on the color control at the bottom left of the dialog box. A color pop-up palette appears. While holding the mouse button down, move the pointer over the desired color and then release. The color change takes effect immediately in all LabWindows/CVI windows that are currently visible.

To change all the colors to their default state, click on **Default**. All currently visible LabWindows/CVI windows immediately reflect the color changes.

If you want to accept these changes, click on the **OK** button. If you want to revert to the state before the dialog box appeared, click on **Cancel**.

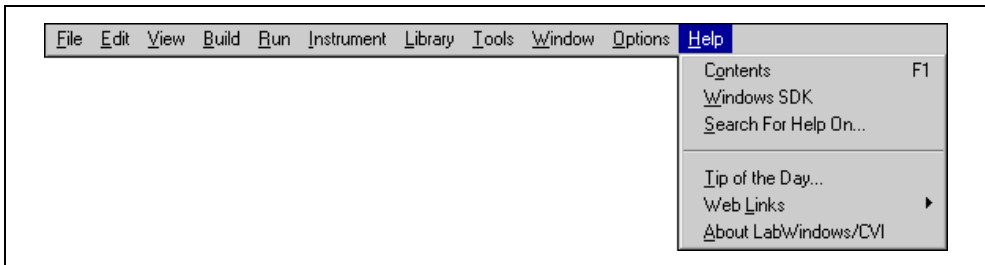
You also can access the **Colors** command in the Source window and the Interactive Execution window.

The Color dialog box also contains eight color types for syntax coloring. Refer to the [Syntax Coloring](#) section in Chapter 5, [Source and Interactive Execution Windows](#).

When you enable the **Use System Colors** option, several color types associated with the Project window, Source window, and scroll bars disappear from the list box. LabWindows/CVI automatically assigns colors to these types based on the system colors you set in the **Appearance** tab in the Windows Display Properties dialog box.

# Help Menu

You use the commands in the **Help** menu, shown in Figure 3-27, to access information about LabWindows/CVI.



**Figure 3-27.** Help Menu

## Contents

The **Contents** command invokes the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help*. The online help contains comprehensive information on LabWindows/CVI library functions.

## Search for Help On

The **Search for Help On** command allows you to search for keywords used within the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help*.

## Windows SDK

The **Windows SDK** command invokes online help for the Windows API functions.

## Tip of the Day

The **Tip of the Day** command invokes a dialog box containing tips to help you learn about features in the LabWindows/CVI environment.

## Web Links

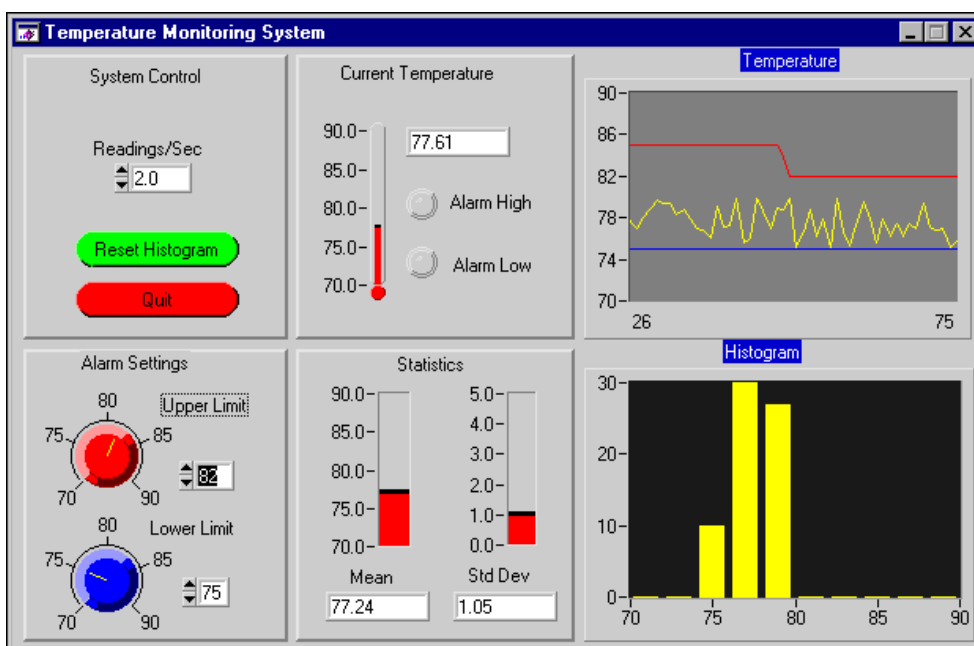
The Web Links command has a submenu that contains links to helpful National Instruments web sites.

## About LabWindows/CVI

The **About LabWindows/CVI** command displays a read-only dialog box with information about your LabWindows/CVI session.

# User Interface Editor Window

A LabWindows/CVI Graphical User Interface (GUI) can consist of panels, command buttons, pull-down menus, graphs, strip charts, knobs, meters, and many other controls and indicators. Figure 4-1 shows a typical GUI created with LabWindows/CVI.



**Figure 4-1.** Sample LabWindows/CVI Graphical User Interface

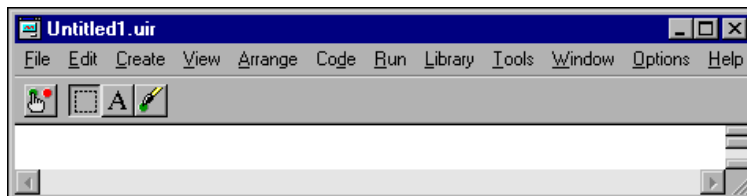
You can create your GUI programmatically using function calls, or you can build a GUI in LabWindows/CVI interactively using the User Interface Editor, a drop-and-drag editor with tools for designing, arranging, and customizing user interface objects. With the interactive User Interface Editor, you can build an extensive GUI for your program without writing a single line of code. When you are finished designing your GUI in the User Interface Editor, you save the GUI as a User Interface Resource (.uir) file. This chapter tells you how to create a GUI interactively. It describes the User Interface Editor and procedures for creating and editing panels, controls, and menu bars.

When you use the User Interface Editor, you create and modify user interface resource (.uir) files. Enter the User Interface Editor by selecting **New** or **Open** from the **File** menu and choosing the **User Interface** (\*.uir) menu item.

## User Interface Editor Overview

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A User Interface Editor window appears in Figure 4-2.



**Figure 4-2.** User Interface Editor Window

From this window, you can create and edit GUI panels, controls, and menu bars. Use the tool bar beneath the menu bar for high-level editing with the mouse. When you click on a particular tool, the mouse cursor changes to reflect the new editing mode.

You can use the following icons in the User Interface Editor window.



Use the operating tool to operate objects. When you are in the operate mode, events display on the right side of the tool bar. These event displays have a built-in delay to give you time to see each event.



Use the editing tool to select, position, and size objects.



Use the labeling tool to modify text associated with objects.



Use the coloring tool to color objects. Clicking the right mouse button displays a color palette from which you can choose a color. Clicking the left mouse button automatically colors the object with the last color selected in the color palette.



Holding down the <Ctrl> key changes the coloring tool to an eyedropper tool. When you click on an object with the eyedropper tool, the current color of the tool becomes the color of that object. Then you can apply that object's color to another object.

## Using the Pop-Up Menus of the User Interface Editor

You can open a pop-up menu by right-clicking on the User Interface Editor window. The type of pop-up menu that appears depends on the surface you click on. The following is a list of the areas in the User Interface Editor that bring up pop-up menus.

- If you click on the User Interface Editor window background, a pop-up menu appears containing commands to create a panel or a menu bar.
- If you click on a panel background, a pop-up menu appears with each of the control types you can create.
- If you click on a control, a pop-up menu appears with commands to generate or view the callback function for the control.

## CodeBuilder Overview

With the LabWindows/CVI CodeBuilder, you can create automatically complete C code that compiles and runs based on a user interface (.uir) file you are creating or editing. By choosing certain options in the **Code** menu, you can produce *skeleton code*. Skeleton code is syntactically and programmatically correct code that compiles and runs before you have typed a single line of code. With the CodeBuilder feature, you save the time of typing in standard code included in every program, eliminate syntax and typing errors, and maintain an organized source code file with a consistent programming style. Because a CodeBuilder program compiles and runs immediately, you can develop and test the project you create, concentrating on one function at a time.

When you choose **Code»Generate»All Code**, LabWindows/CVI places the #include statements, variable declarations, callback function skeletons, and main function in the source code file you specify as the target file. Each function skeleton contains a switch construct with a case statement for every default event you specify. You can set default events for control callback functions and panel callback functions by choosing **Code»Preferences**. Although skeleton code runs, you must customize it to implement the actions you want to take place for each event.

When you generate code for a specific control or panel callback function, LabWindows/CVI places the skeleton code for that function in the target file in the same complete format used for the **Code»Generate»All Code** command. However, this code might not run. In order for a project to run, a main function must exist. If you lack the main function or any of the callback functions you reference in the .uir file, the code is incomplete.

It is good practice to use the **Code»Generate»All Code** option first to produce a running project from the current state of the .uir file. Then, after adding panels, controls, or menu items to the .uir file, select **Code»Generate»Panel Callback, Control Callbacks, or Menu Callbacks** to make corresponding additions to the source file.

Also with CodeBuilder, you can make sure that your automatically generated program terminates properly. For a CodeBuilder program to terminate successfully, you must include a call to `QuitUserInterface`. When you choose **Code»Generate»All Code**, the Generate All Code dialog box prompts you to choose which callback functions terminate the program. You can select one or more callback functions to ensure proper program termination.

## File Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **File** menu, as shown in Figure 4-3.

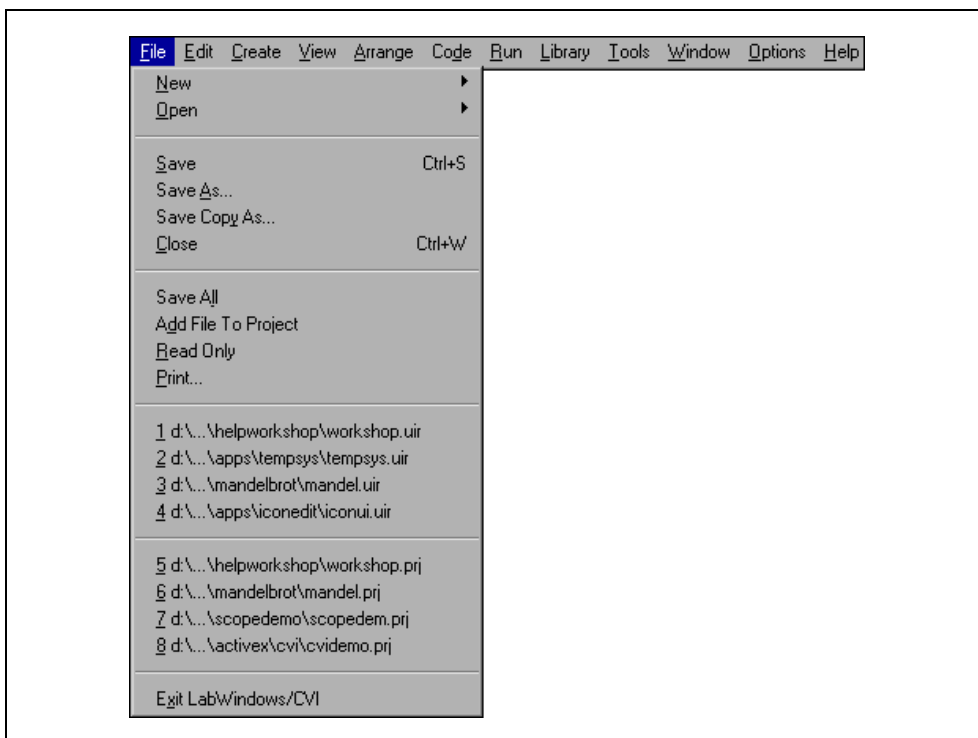


Figure 4-3. File Menu

## New, Open, Save, and Exit LabWindows/CVI

The **New**, **Open**, **Save**, and **Exit LabWindows/CVI** commands in the **File** menu of the User Interface Editor work like **New**, **Open**, **Save**, and **Exit LabWindows/CVI** commands in the Project window. For more information on these commands, refer to the [File Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#).

## Save As

Use the **Save As** command to write the .uir file to disk using a name you specify. The **Save As** command changes the name on the User Interface Editor window title bar to the new name you specified. If you want to append an extension other than .uir, type it in after the filename. If you do not want to append any extension, enter a period after the filename.

## Save Copy As

The **Save Copy As** command writes the contents of the active window to disk using a name you specify without changing the name of the active window.

## Close

The **Close** command closes the active window. If you have modified the contents of the window since the last save, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save the file to disk.

## Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

## Add File to Project

The **Add File to Project** command adds the .uir file in the current window to the project list.

## Read Only

The **Read Only** command suppresses the editing capabilities in the current window. When you initially open a file, the **Read Only** command is disabled unless the file is read-only on disk.

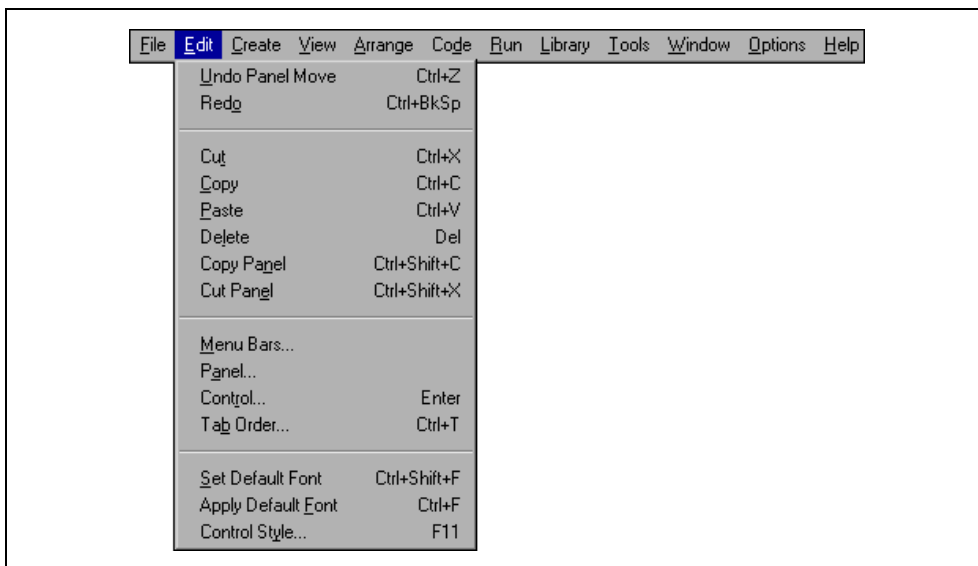
## Print

The **Print** command opens the Print dialog box, which allows you to send the entire .uir file or the visible screen area to a printer or a file. The Print dialog box also allows you to set print preferences. The print preferences correspond to the print attributes that are described in the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help*.



## Edit Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **Edit** menu, as shown in Figure 4-4. The **Edit** menu is used for editing panels, controls, and menu bars.



**Figure 4-4.** Edit Menu



**Note** **Undo** and **Redo** are enabled when you perform an edit action. **Cut** and **Copy** are enabled when you select a control. **Paste** is enabled when you place an object on the Clipboard using the **Cut** or **Copy** command. If you select an edit command while it is disabled, nothing happens.

## Undo and Redo

The **Undo** command reverses your last edit action, and the screen returns to its previous state. Edit actions are stored on a stack so that you can undo a series of your edit actions. The stack can store up to 100 edit actions. You set the size of the undo stack by selecting **Options»Preferences**.

The **Redo** command reverses your last **Undo** command, restoring the screen to its previous state. **Redo** is helpful when you use the **Undo** command to reverse a series of your edit actions and accidentally go too far. The **Redo** command is enabled only when your previous action was the **Undo** command. Any action disables the **Redo** command.

Actions that you can undo and redo appear dynamically in the menu. For example, when you move a control, the menu presents the option **Undo Move Control**.

## Cut and Copy

To cut or copy controls to the Windows Clipboard, select the control you want to place on the Clipboard and then select **Cut** or **Copy** from the **Edit** menu. LabWindows/CVI places the selected control on the Clipboard. If you used the Copy command, the control remains in the window. Use the **Cut** command to delete controls from the window. Controls you cut or copy do not accumulate on the Clipboard. Every time you cut or copy a control it replaces the previous contents of the Clipboard.

To use the **Cut** or **Copy** commands, follow these steps:

1. Select the control you want to place on the Clipboard by clicking on the control or pressing <Tab> until the control is highlighted. Select multiple controls by dragging the mouse over the controls. You also can press <Shift-Click> to select multiple controls.
2. Select **Cut** or **Copy** from the **Edit** menu.

## Paste

The **Paste** command inserts controls, panels, or text from the Clipboard. You can **Paste** an object from the Clipboard as many times as you like. Controls or panels remain on the Clipboard until you use **Cut**, **Cut Panel**, **Copy**, or **Copy Panel** again. The **New** and **Open** commands do not erase the Clipboard.

## Delete

The **Delete** command deletes selected controls without placing the controls on the Clipboard. Because **Delete** does not place controls on the Clipboard, you cannot restore deleted controls using the **Paste** command.

## Copy Panel and Cut Panel

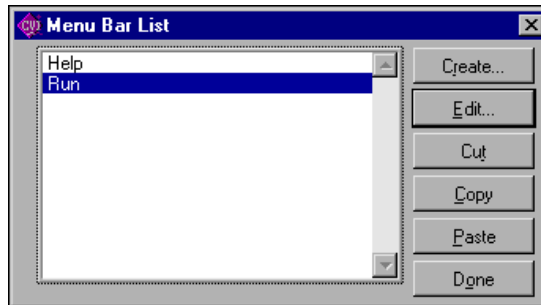
The **Copy Panel** and **Cut Panel** commands put an entire panel on the Clipboard. The **Copy Panel** command copies the selected panel and places it on the Clipboard, leaving the selected panel in its original location. The **Cut Panel** command removes the selected panel and places it on the Clipboard. Panels you cut or copy do not accumulate on the Clipboard. Every time you cut or copy a panel it replaces the previous contents of the Clipboard.

To use the **Copy Panel** or **Cut Panel** commands, follow these steps:

1. Select the panel you want to place on the Clipboard by clicking on the panel or pressing <Shift-Ctrl> and the left or right arrow key until the panel is highlighted.
2. Select **Edit>Copy Panel** or **Cut Panel**.

## Menu Bars

The **Menu Bars** command opens the Menu Bar List dialog box, as shown in Figure 4-5.

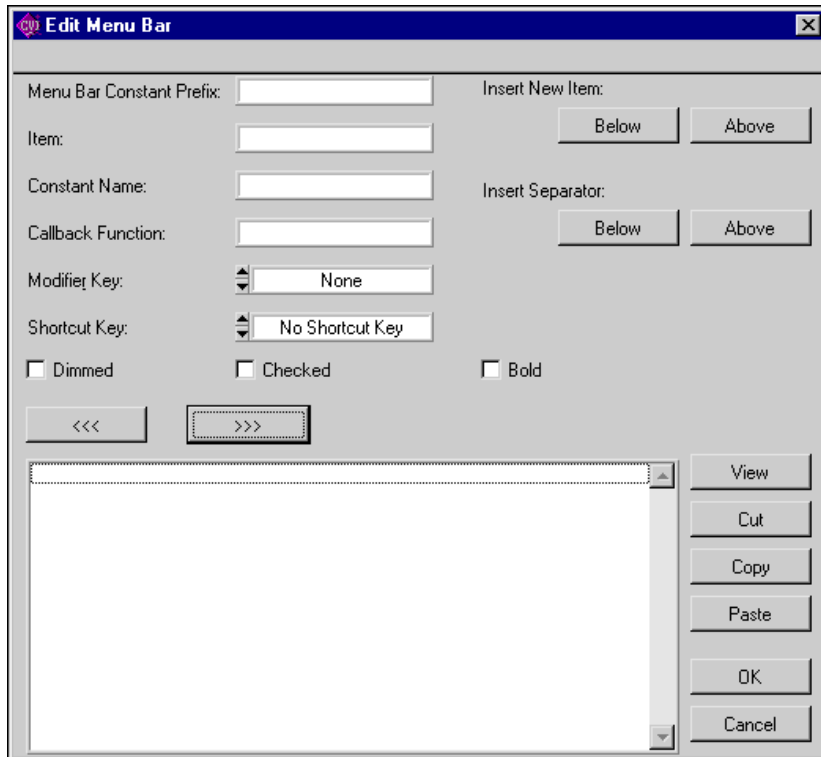


**Figure 4-5.** Menu Bar List Dialog Box

The list contains all of the menu bars in the resource file, listed by constant prefix. The Menu Bar List dialog box has the following options:

- **Create**—Opens a new Edit Menu Bar dialog box, as seen in Figure 4-6. After you create a menu bar, it appears below the currently selected menu bar in the menu bar list.
- **Edit**—Opens the Edit Menu Bar dialog box, as seen in Figure 4-6, for the selected menu bar.
- **Cut**—Deletes the currently highlighted item in the menu bar list and copies it to the menu bar Clipboard.
- **Copy**—Copies the currently highlighted item in the menu bar list to the menu bar Clipboard.
- **Paste**—Inserts the contents of the menu bar Clipboard to the menu bar list. When you use the **Paste** button, the menu bar is inserted above the currently highlighted item in the menu bar list.
- **Done**—Closes the Menu Bar List dialog box.

The Edit Menu Bar dialog box, as shown in Figure 4-6, appears when you click on the **Create** or **Edit** buttons on the Menu Bar List.



**Figure 4-6.** Edit Menu Bar Dialog Box

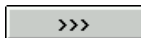
The Edit Menu Bar dialog box has the following options:

- **Menu Bar Constant Prefix**—Sets the resource ID for the menu bar. You pass this resource ID to `LoadMenuBar` to load the menu bar into memory. The menu bar constant prefix is defined in the `.h` file that LabWindows/CVI generates when you save the `.uir` file. If you do not assign a menu bar constant prefix, the User Interface Editor assigns one for you when you save the `.uir` file.
- **Item**—Sets the name of the current menu, submenu, or menu command. If you type a double underscore before any letter in the **Item** field, the letter appears underlined in the label. The user can select the menu item by pressing <Alt> and that letter

- **Constant Name**—Sets the constant name of the item, which is appended to the menu bar constant prefix to form the ID for the current item. You pass the ID to functions such as `GetMenuBarAttribute` and `SetMenuBarAttribute`. `GetUserEvent` returns the ID when the current menu item generates a commit event.
- **Callback Function**—This field is optional. In this box, you can type the name of the function to be called when the current menu item generates an event.
- **Modifier Key**—Identifies the keys that users can press to cause the current menu item to execute.
- **Shortcut Key**—Identifies the keys that users can press to cause the current menu item to execute.
- **Dimmed**—Specifies whether the menu item is initially dimmed.
- **Checked**—Specifies whether the menu item initially has a checkmark.
- **Insert New Item**—Inserts a new item above or below the currently selected menu item.
- **Insert Separator**—Inserts a separator above or below the currently selected menu item.
- The left hierarchy button moves the currently selected menu item up one level in the submenu hierarchy.



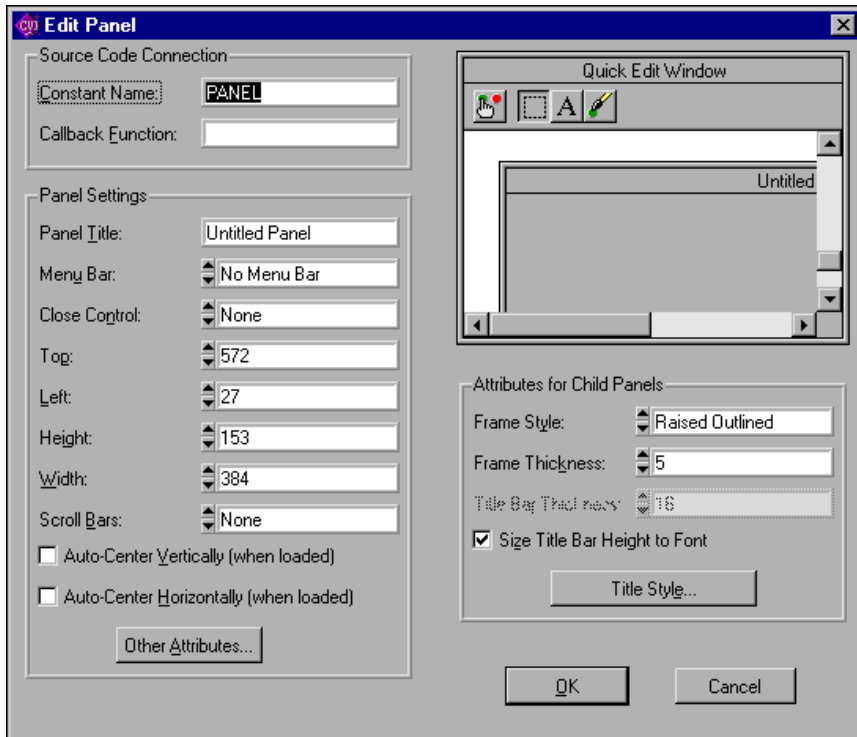
- The right hierarchy button moves the currently selected item down one level in the submenu hierarchy.



- **View**—Displays the current state of the menu bar and pull-down menus.
- **Cut**—Deletes the currently selected menu item and copies it to the menu Clipboard.
- **Copy**—Copies the currently selected menu item to the menu Clipboard.
- **Paste**—Inserts the menu item currently on the menu Clipboard above the currently selected menu item.
- **OK**—Accepts the current inputs and closes the dialog box.
- **Cancel**—Cancels the operation and removes the dialog box.

## Panel

The **Panel** command opens the Edit Panel dialog box, as shown in Figure 4-7.



**Figure 4-7.** Edit Panel Dialog Box

- The **Source Code Connection** section of the Edit Panel dialog box has the following options:
  - **Constant Name**—Sets the resource ID for the panel. You pass this resource ID to `LoadPanel` to load the panel into memory. The constant name is defined in the `.h` file that LabWindows/CVI generates when you save the `.uir` file. If you do not assign a constant name, the User Interface Editor assigns a constant name when you save the `.uir` file.
  - **Callback Function**—Specifies the name of the function to be called when an event is generated on the panel. Naming a callback function is optional.

- The **Panel Settings** section of the Edit Panel dialog box has the following options:
  - **Panel Title**—Sets the title of the panel.
  - **Menu Bar**—Sets the name of the menu bar.
  - **Close Control**—Designates which control on your panel causes the panel to close.
  - **Top**—Sets the barrier for the top edge of the panel, in pixels.
  - **Left**—Sets the barrier for the left edge of the panel, in pixels.
  - **Height**—Sets the barrier for the height of the panel, in pixels.
  - **Width**—Sets the barrier for the width of the panel, in pixels.
  - **Scroll Bars**—Enables or disables scroll bars on the panel.
  - **Auto-Center Vertically (when loaded)**—Automatically centers the panel in the vertical center of your monitor.
  - **Auto-Center Horizontally (when loaded)**—Automatically centers the panel in the horizontal center of your monitor.
  - **Other Attributes**—Sets behavior and feature attributes of the panel.

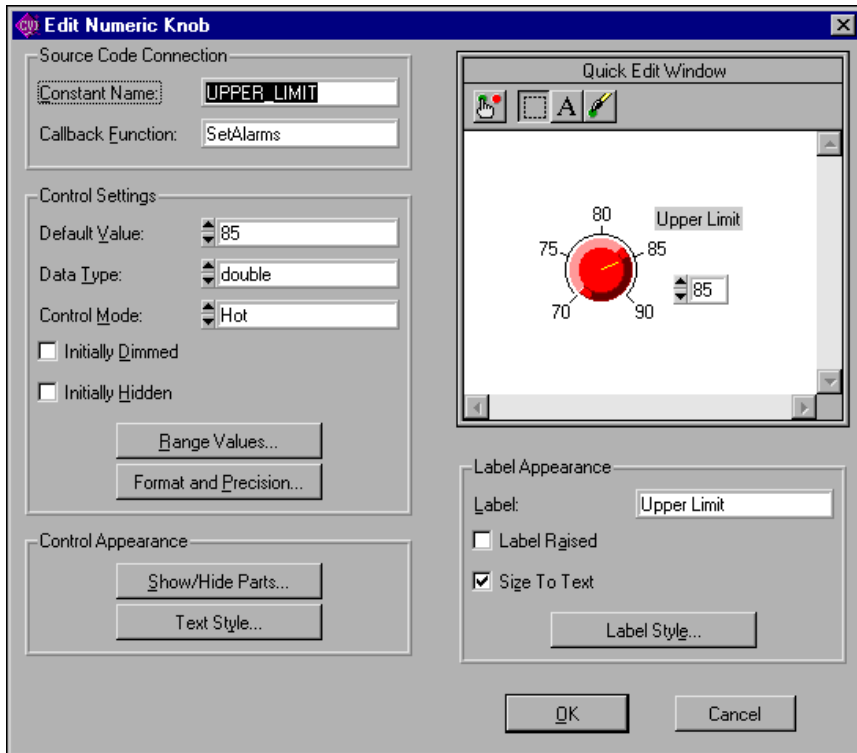
Refer to the panel attributes discussion in the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* for more details.

- From the Quick Edit Window, you can perform high-level edits on the panel. The tools in the toolbar operate like the tools in the main User Interface Editor window. Refer to the [User Interface Editor Overview](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information.
- The **Attributes for Child Panels** section of the Edit Panel dialog box has the following options:
  - **Frame Style**—Sets the styles of the frame in the Child Panel.
  - **Frame Thickness**—Sets the frame thickness in the Child Panel.
  - **Title Bar Thickness**—Sets the title bar thickness in the Child Panel.
  - **Size Title Bar Height to Font**—Sets the size of the title bar to match the height of the font in the title bar.
  - **Title Style**—Sets the style of the title in the Child Panel.

## Control

The **Control** command opens a dialog box where you can edit a control you have selected. You also can double-click on a control to open this dialog box. The dialog box can have various sections including, **Source Code Connection**, **Control Settings**, **Control Appearance**, **Quick Edit Window**, and **Label Appearance**. The sections available in the

dialog box for a selected control vary slightly depending on the type of control that you are editing. Figure 4-8 is an example of an edit control dialog box for a numeric knob control.

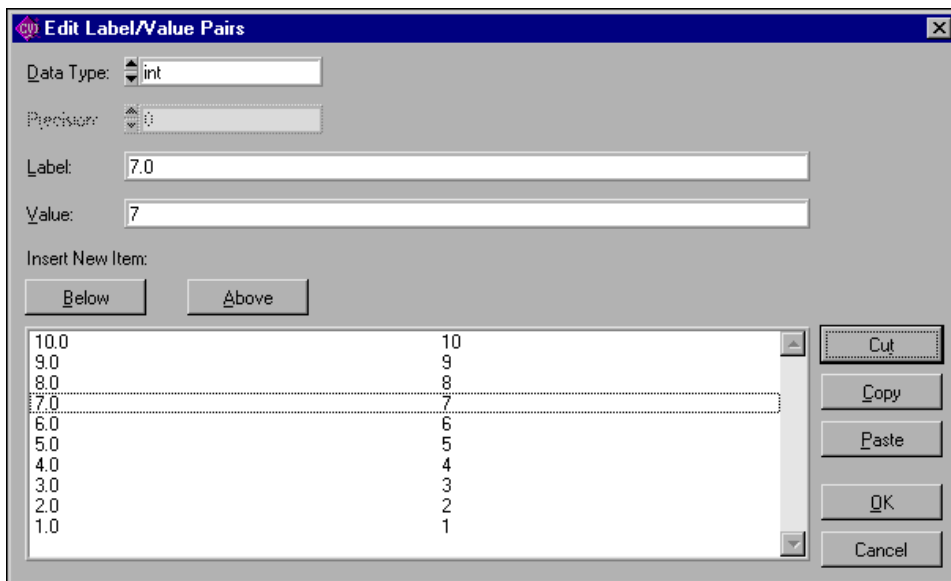


**Figure 4-8.** Sample Edit Numeric Knob Control Dialog Box

- The **Source Code Connection** section of the edit control dialog box has the following options:
  - **Constant Name**—The User Interface Editor appends the constant name to the panel resource ID to form the ID for the control. The ID identifies the control in any control-specific functions, such as `GetCtrlVal` and `SetCtrlAttribute`. The ID is defined in the `.h` file that LabWindows/CVI generates when you save the `.uir` file. If you do not assign a constant name, the User Interface Editor assigns one for you when you save the `.uir` file.
  - **Callback Function**—In this box you can type the name of the function to be called when an event is generated on the control. Naming a callback function is optional.
- The **Control Settings** section of the Edit control dialog box displays specific attributes for the type of control that you are editing. It contains the data-specific attributes for the control.



Ring controls and list boxes have a **Label/Value Pairs** button in the Control Settings section of the Edit control dialog box. This button activates the Edit Label/Value Pairs dialog box shown in Figure 4-9.



**Figure 4-9.** Edit Label/Value Pairs Dialog Box

Use the Edit Label/Value Pairs dialog box to create and edit the contents of ring and list box controls. Use the list control functions in the User Interface Library to control rings and list boxes.

- The **Control Appearance** section of the Edit control dialog box for a numeric control displays specific attributes for the type of control that you are editing. It contains attributes pertaining to the physical appearance of the control.
- From the Quick Edit Window, you can perform high-level edits on the control. The tools in the tool bar operate like the tools in the main User Interface Editor window. The Quick Edit Window also immediately reflects any changes you make in other sections of the dialog box.

Simply stated, the Edit control dialog box of any control allows you to interactively set all of the attributes of the control. The control types discussion in the *LabWindows/CVI Online Help* describes these attributes in detail.

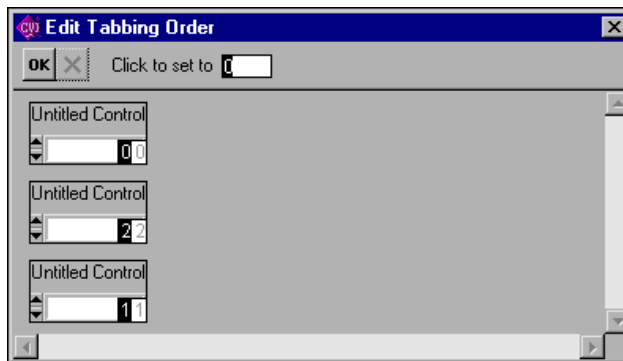
- The **Label Appearance** section of the Edit control dialog box contains attributes pertaining to the physical appearance of the control label.

If you type a double underscore before any letter in the **Label** field, the letter appears underlined in the label. The user can select the control by pressing <Alt> and the underlined letter, provided that no accessible menu bars contain a menu with the same underlined letter.

## Tab Order

Each control on a panel has a position in the tab order. The tab order determines which control becomes the next active control when the user presses <Tab> or <Shift-Tab>.

When you create a control, it positions itself at the end of the tab order. When you copy and paste a control, the tab position of the pasted control is immediately before the control you copied. Select **Edit>Tab Order** to display the Edit Tabbing Order dialog box, as shown in Figure 4-10.



**Figure 4-10.** Edit Tabbing Order Dialog Box



Click on a control with the pointer cursor to change the tab position of a control to the number in the **Click To Set To** box.



You can change the cursor to the eyedropper cursor by holding down the <Ctrl> key. Click on a control with the eyedropper cursor to change the number in the **Click To Set To** box to the current tab position associated with the control.



Click on the **OK** button to accept the new tab order.



Click on the close button to erase the new tab order and restore the original tab order. For each control, the original tab order appears in dim display to the right of the new tab order you enter.

## Set Default Font

Select **Edit»Set Default Font** to make the font of the currently selected control the default control font. If the label is also selected or is the only item selected, the font of the label becomes the default label font. Newly created controls inherit the default fonts.

## Apply Default Font

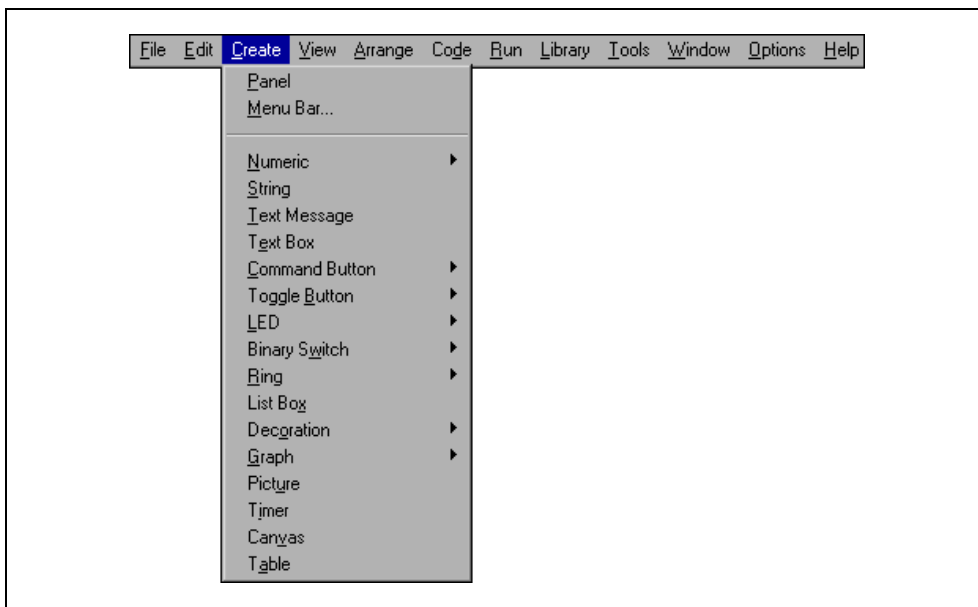
Select **Edit»Apply Default Font** to set the font of the currently selected control (and/or label) to the default control font (and/or default label font).

## Control Style

Use the **Control Style** command to change the style of the selected control. For example, you can change a ring slide control to a ring knob control, and the label/value pairs remain intact.

## Create Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **Create** menu as shown in Figure 4-11. Use the **Create** menu to create panels, menu bars, and controls.



**Figure 4-11.** Create Menu

## Panel

The **Panel** command places a new, untitled panel into the User Interface Editor window. Refer to the [Edit Menu](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on editing the panel.

## Menu Bar

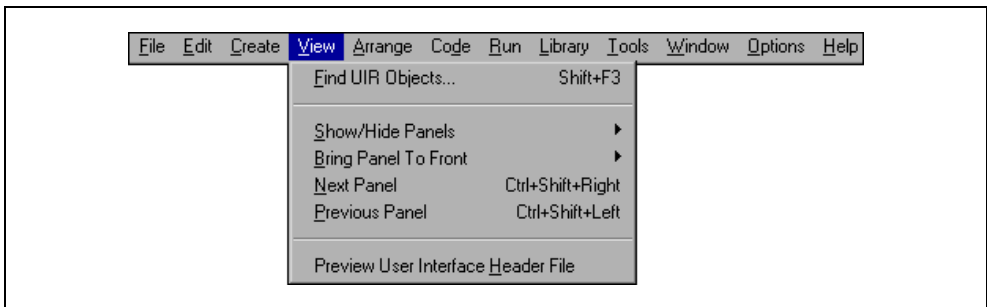
The **Menu Bar** command opens the Edit Menu Bar dialog box. Refer to the [Menu Bars](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on editing the menu bar.

## Controls

The remaining options in the **Create** menu allow you to create GUI controls. After you create a control, you can modify it using the items in the **Edit** menu. Refer to the [Edit Menu](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on editing controls.

## View Menu

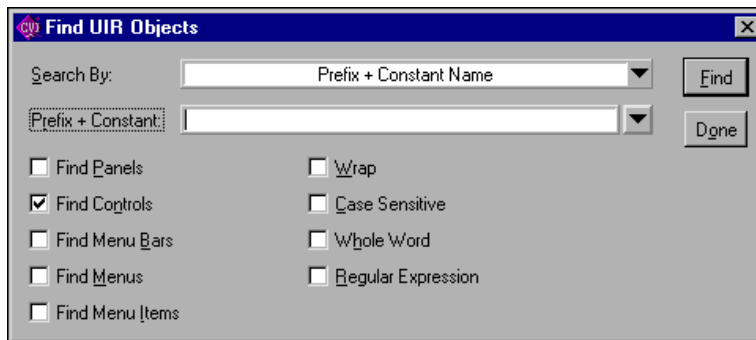
This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **View** menu as shown in Figure 4-12.



**Figure 4-12.** View Menu

## Find UIR Objects

Use the **Find UIR Objects** command to locate objects in user interface resource (.uir) files. When you select this command, the Find UIR Objects dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 4-13.



**Figure 4-13.** Find UIR Objects Dialog Box

Select the type or types of objects you want to search for by checking the appropriate checkboxes in the left column of the dialog box.

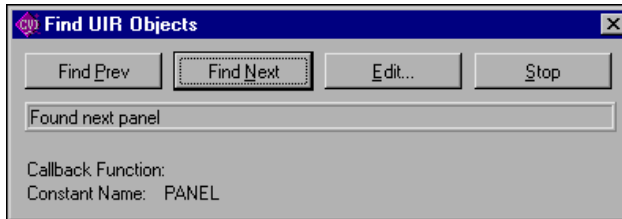
- **Search By**—Select the search criterion from the **Search By** ring control. The choices available are:
  - **Constant Prefix**—Valid for panels and menu bars
  - **Constant Name**—Valid for controls, menus, and menu items
  - **Prefix + Constant Name**—Valid for all
  - **Callback Function Name**—Valid for all, except menu bars
  - **Label**—Valid for all, except menu bars

Enter the text you want to search for into the string control. You can view a list of all the strings in the file that match the current **Search By** criterion by clicking on the arrow to the right of the string control or by using the up and down arrow keys.

- **Find**—Allows you to select which types of UIR objects to search for.
- **Wrap**—Continues your search at the beginning of the file after reaching the end of the file.
- **Case Sensitive**—Finds instances only of the specified text that match exactly.
- **Whole Word**—Finds the specified text only when it is surrounded by spaces, punctuation marks, or other characters not part of a word. LabWindows/CVI treats the characters A through Z, 0 through 9, and underscore (\_) as parts of a word.
- **Regular Expression**—Causes LabWindows/CVI to treat certain characters in the search string control as regular expression characters instead of literal characters. Refer to

Table 5-1, *Regular Expression Characters*, in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more information.

- **Find**—Click on the **Find** button to perform the search. If any user interface objects match, the dialog box is replaced by the one shown in Figure 4-14.



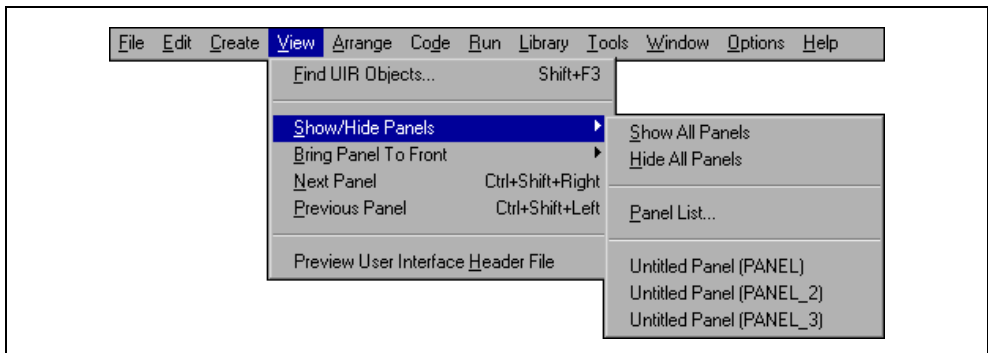
**Figure 4-14.** Find UIR Objects Dialog Box after a Search Executes

This dialog box allows you to browse through the list of matches. As you come to each object, its callback function name and label appear, and the object is highlighted in the .uir file. The Find UIR Objects dialog box has the following buttons:

- **Find Prev**—Searches backward for the previously matched object.
- **Find Next**—Searches forward for the next matching object.
- **Edit**—Terminates the search and opens the Edit dialog box for the user interface object currently highlighted.
- **Stop**—Terminates the search.

## Show/Hide Panels

The **Show/Hide Panels** command has a submenu, as shown in Figure 4-15.



**Figure 4-15.** Show/Hide Panel Submenu

Use this submenu to **Show All Panels**, **Hide All Panels**, or select individual panels you want to view in the User Interface Editor window.

## Bring Panel to Front

The **Bring Panel to Front** command has a submenu that lists all panels and allows you to select a panel to bring to the front for editing.

## Next Panel

The **Next Panel** command brings the next panel in the current .uir file to the front for viewing and editing.

## Previous Panel

The **Previous Panel** command brings the previous panel in the current .uir file to the front for viewing and editing.

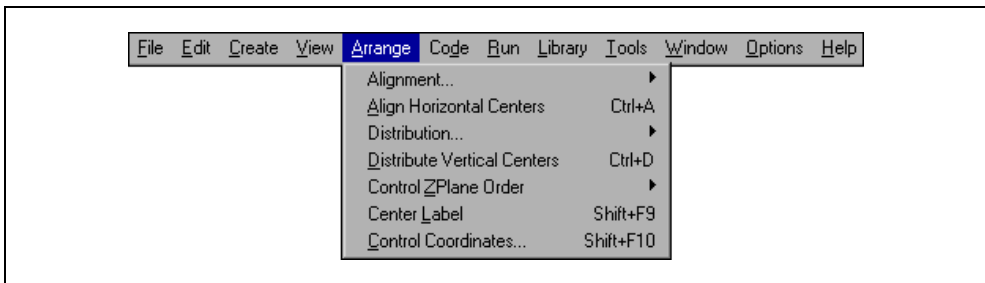
## Preview User Interface Header File

The **Preview User Interface Header File** command opens a Source window with a preview of the header file that LabWindows/CVI generates when you save the .uir file in the User Interface Editor window.

## Arrange Menu

---

This section explains how to use commands in the **Arrange** menu of the User Interface Editor window, as shown in Figure 4-16.



**Figure 4-16.** Arrange Menu

## Alignment

The **Alignment** command allows you to align controls on a panel. You can use the mouse to select a group of controls by dragging over them or <Shift-Click> on each item you want to include in the group. Then you can select an alignment method from the submenu. The options on the **Alignment** command submenu are as follows:



**Left Edges** vertically aligns the left edges of the selected controls to the left-most control.



**Horizontal Centers** vertically aligns the selected controls through their horizontal centers.



**Right Edges** vertically aligns the right edges of the selected controls to the right-most control.



**Top Edges** horizontally aligns the top edges of the selected controls to the upper-most control.



**Vertical Centers** horizontally aligns the selected controls through their vertical centers.



**Bottom Edges** horizontally aligns the bottom edges of the selected controls to the lower-most control.

## Align Horizontal Centers

The **Align Horizontal Centers** command performs the same action as the **Alignment** command, using the option you last selected in the **Alignment** command submenu.

## Distribution

The **Distribution** command allows you to distribute controls on a panel. Select a group of controls by dragging the mouse over them or <Shift-Click> on each item you want to include in the group. Then you can select a distribution method from the submenu. The options on the **Distribution** command submenu are as follows:



**Top Edges** sets equal vertical spacing between the top edges of the controls. The upper-most and lower-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Vertical Centers** sets equal vertical spacing between the centers of the controls. The upper-most and lower-most controls serve as anchor points.





**Bottom Edges** sets equal vertical spacing between the bottom edges of the controls. The upper-most and lower-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Vertical Gap** sets equal vertical gap spacing between the controls. The upper-most and lower-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Vertical Compress** compresses the spacing of controls to remove any vertical gap between the controls.



**Left Edges** sets equal horizontal spacing between the left edges of the controls. The left-most and right-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Horizontal Centers** sets equal horizontal spacing between the centers of the controls. The left-most and right-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Right Edges** sets equal horizontal spacing between the right edges of the controls. The left-most and right-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Horizontal Gap** sets equal horizontal gap spacing between the controls. The left-most and right-most controls serve as anchor points.



**Horizontal Compress** compresses spacing of the controls to remove any horizontal gap between the controls.

## Distribute Vertical Centers

The **Distribute Vertical Centers** command performs the same action as the **Distribution** command, using the option you last selected in the **Distribution** command submenu.

## Control ZPlane Order

The **Control ZPlane Order** option lets you set the sequence in which overlapped controls are drawn. Controls are always drawn in order, from the back to the front of the z-plane order. The **Control ZPlane Order** submenu presents four commands:

- **Move to Front** moves the control to the front of the z-plane order so it is drawn last.
- **Move to Back** moves the control to the back of the z-plane order so it is drawn first.
- **Move Forward** moves the control one place forward in the z-plane order.
- **Move Backward** moves the control one place backward in the z-plane order.

## Center Label

The **Center Label** command centers the label of the selected control.

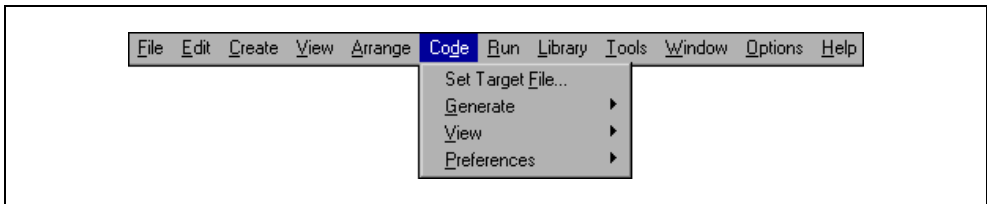
## Control Coordinates

The **Control Coordinates** command invokes a dialog box where you can interactively set the width, height, top, and bottom of all selected controls and labels.

## Code Menu

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This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **Code** menu as shown in Figure 4-17. Use the commands in the **Code** menu to generate code automatically based on a (.uir) file you are creating or editing.

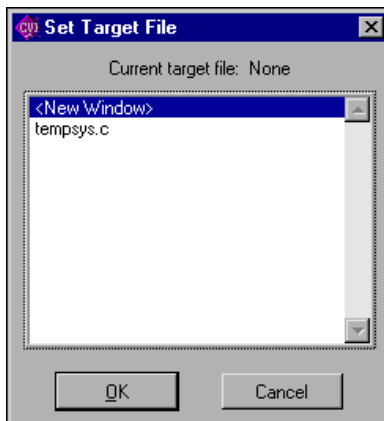


**Figure 4-17.** Code Menu

## Set Target File

Use the **Set Target File** command to specify to which file LabWindows/CVI generates code. Selecting this command opens the Set Target File dialog box, shown in Figure 4-18. By default, LabWindows/CVI places the generated code in a new window, unless a source code (.c) file is open. Then, that source file is the default target file. CodeBuilder uses the

same target file as the function panel target file, except when the function panel target file is the Interactive Execution window.

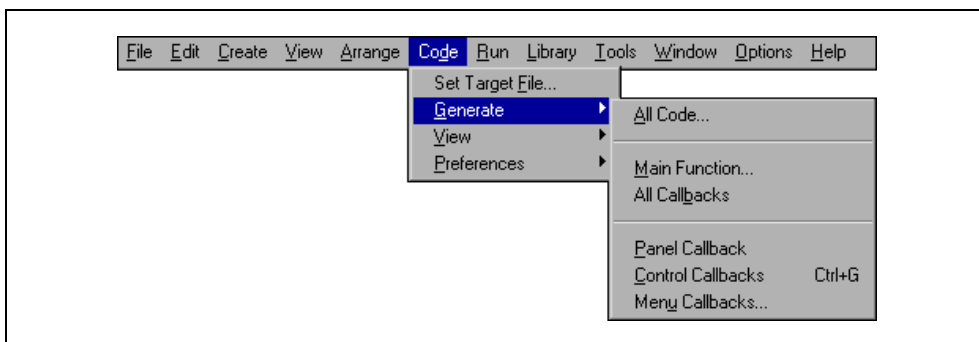


**Figure 4-18.** Set Target File Dialog Box

To set a target file, select a file from the list of options in the Set Target File dialog box and then click on **OK**. The options include all open source files and a new window.

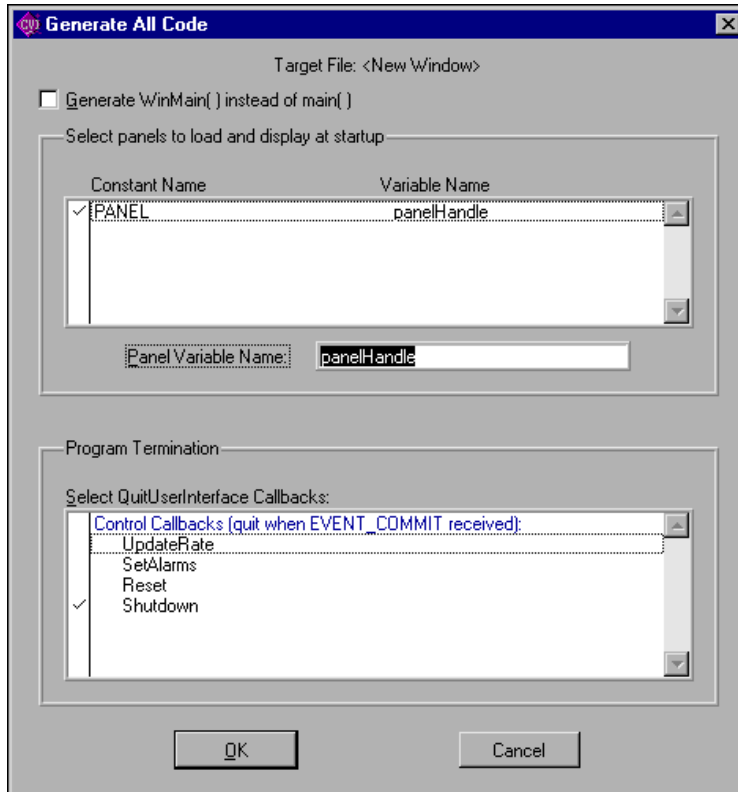
## Generate

You access the CodeBuilder features of LabWindows/CVI in the **Generate** menu item. The commands in the **Generate** menu produce code based on the .uir file. Figure 4-19 shows the **Generate** submenu. The code produced by the **Generate** menu uses the bracket styles you specify with the **Bracket Styles** command in the **Options** menu of the Source window for your project.



**Figure 4-19.** Generate Submenu

Use the **All Code** command to generate code to accompany the .uir file. Selecting **Code»Generate»All Code** opens the Generate All Code dialog box, shown in Figure 4-20. This dialog box displays a checklist and prompts you to choose the panel or panels that the main function loads and displays at run time. LabWindows/CVI automatically assigns a default panel variable name for each panel in the .uir file.



**Figure 4-20.** Generate All Code Dialog Box

The Generate All Code dialog box also prompts you to choose the callback function or functions that terminate the program. For a CodeBuilder program to terminate successfully, you must include a call to `QuitUserInterface`.



**Note** Callback functions associated with close controls are automatically checked in the **Program Termination** section of the Generate All Code dialog box. You can define a control to be a close control in the Edit Panel dialog box by selecting **Edit»Panel**.

To automatically generate all code, select the panels you want to load and display in the user interface. Also select the callback function or function you want to terminate the program and then click on **OK**.

When you choose **Code»Generate»All Code**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements, the variable declarations, the function skeletons and the `main` function, and places them in the target file. The callback functions you selected to terminate program execution include a call to the User Interface Library `QuitUserInterface` function.

Unless you have selected the **Code»Preferences»Always Append Code to End** option, LabWindows/CVI places the skeleton code for each callback function at the cursor position in the target file. If the cursor is inside an existing function, LabWindows/CVI repositions the cursor at the end of that function before inserting the new function. CodeBuilder places all functions of one type (panel callback, control callback, or menu callback) together in the source file. Any panel callbacks are placed first in the source file, control callbacks are placed next, and menu callbacks are placed last. Refer to the [Preferences](#) section later in this chapter for more information on specifying the location of generated code.

Function skeletons for control and panel callbacks include the complete prototype, the proper syntax, a return value, and a switch construct containing a case for each default control or panel event. Function skeletons for menu callbacks include the complete prototype and open and close brackets. You can set the default events by selecting **Code»Preferences**. Refer to the [Preferences](#) section later in this chapter for more details. You can set the location of the open and close brackets by selecting **Options»Bracket Style** in a Source window.

Use the **Main Function** command to generate code for the `main` function and write it to the target file. Selecting **Code»Generate»Main Function** option opens the Generate Main Function dialog box, shown in Figure 4-21. This dialog box prompts you to choose the panels the `main` function loads and displays at run time. LabWindows/CVI automatically assigns a default panel variable name for each panel in the `.uir` file.

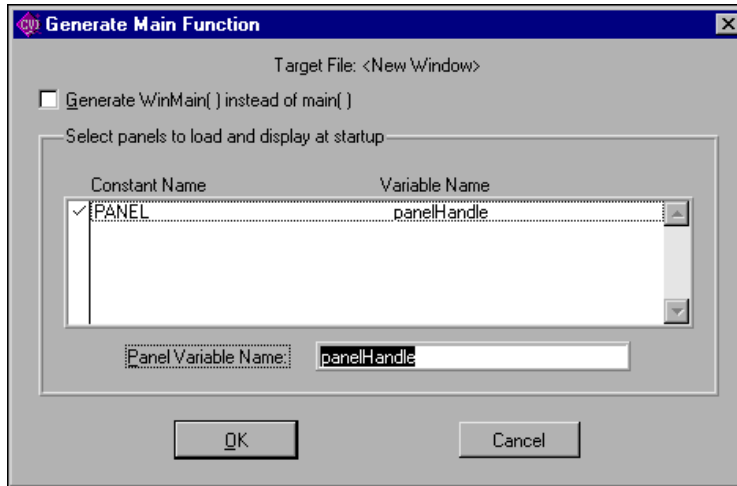


Figure 4-21. Generate Main Function Dialog Box



**Note** If you previously selected the **Code»Generate»All Code** command, you do not have to execute this command. Use this command only when you want to replace the `main` callback function to add or change the panels to be loaded at run time.

To automatically generate code for the `main` function, select the panel or panels you want to load and display in the user interface and then click on **OK**.

When you choose **Code»Generate»Main Function**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements, the variable declarations, and the `main` callback function, and places them in the target file.



**Note** If the source file contains only the `main` function and the `#include` statements and you have not yet created the appropriate callback functions, you might get an error when trying to run the project. When the `main` function calls `LoadPanel`, LabWindows/CVI generates a non-fatal error for each callback function it cannot find in the source file.

The **Generate WinMain() Instead of Main()** checkbox enables you to use `WinMain` instead of `main` for your main program. In LabWindows/CVI, you can use either function as your program entry point. When linking your application in an external compiler, it is easier to use `WinMain`.

If your project target is a DLL, neither `WinMain` or `main` are generated. Instead, CodeBuilder generates a `DLLMain` function and places the bulk of the User Interface function calls in a function called `InitUIForDLL`. Call `InitUIForDLL` in your DLL at the point you want to load and display panels.

When you link your executable or DLL in an external compiler, you must include a call to `InitCVIRTE` in `WinMain`, `main`, or `DLLMain` (or `DLLEntryPoint` for Borland C/C++). In a DLL, you must also include a call to `CloseCVIRTE`. Refer to Chapter 3, *Compiler/Linker Issues*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual*. CodeBuilder automatically generates the necessary calls to `InitCVIRTE` and `CloseCVIRTE` in your `WinMain`, `main`, or `DLLMain` function. It also automatically generates a `#include` statement for the `cvirte.h` file.

Use the **All Callbacks** command to generate code for all the callback functions and write them to the target file.

When you select **Code»Generate»All Callbacks**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements and the callback function skeletons and places them in the target file.

Use the **Panel Callback** command to generate code for the callback function associated with a panel. Before you can choose **Code»Generate»Panel Callback**, you must activate a panel.

When you select **Code»Generate»Panel Callback**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements and the function skeleton for the active panel and places them in the target file.

Use the **Control Callbacks** command to generate code for the callback functions associated with one or more controls. Before you can choose **Generate»Control Callbacks**, you must select at least one control.

When you select **Code»Generate»Control Callbacks**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements and the function skeleton for each selected control and places them in the target file.

You also can generate a control callback function skeleton by clicking on the control with the right mouse button and selecting the **Generate Control Callback** command from the pop-up menu.

Use the **Menu Callbacks** command to generate code for menus and menu items connected to callback functions.

Selecting **Code»Generate»Menu Callbacks** opens the Select Menu Bar Objects dialog box. Select the menu bar objects for which you want to generate callbacks and then click on **OK**.

When you select **OK**, LabWindows/CVI produces the `#include` statements, the function prototypes, and the opening and closing brackets for each callback function. No switch construct or case statements are produced because the usual default events do not apply to menu callback functions. You must add the code to implement the actions you want to take place when a menu bar item is selected.

The **All Callbacks** command is available when any of the **Panel Callback**, **Control Callbacks**, or **Menu Callbacks** commands are available.

The **Panel Callback** command is available if you specified a callback function for the currently active panel. The **Control Callbacks** command is available if you have specified callback functions for any of the currently selected controls. The **Menu Callbacks** command is available if you have a menu bar that contains items for which you specified a callback.

When you generate code to accompany a `.uir` file, LabWindows/CVI places the skeleton code in the target file. You must save the `.uir` file before you can generate any code based on that file. When you save a `.uir` file, LabWindows/CVI generates a header (`*.h`) file with the same name. This `.h` file and `userint.h` are included in the source file.

If you try to generate the same function more than once, the Generate Code dialog box appears. Figure 4-22 shows the Generate Code dialog box. Each previously generated code fragment appears highlighted. Click on the appropriate button in the Generate Code dialog box to replace the existing function, insert a new function, or skip to the next generated function.

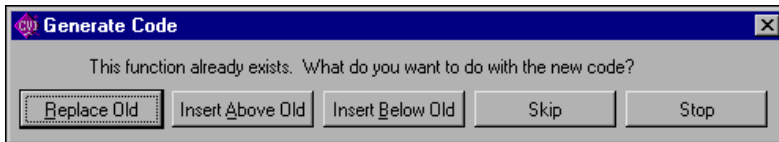


Figure 4-22. Generate Code Dialog Box

## View

Use the **Code»View** command to look at code for a given callback function. Figure 4-23 shows the **View** submenu.

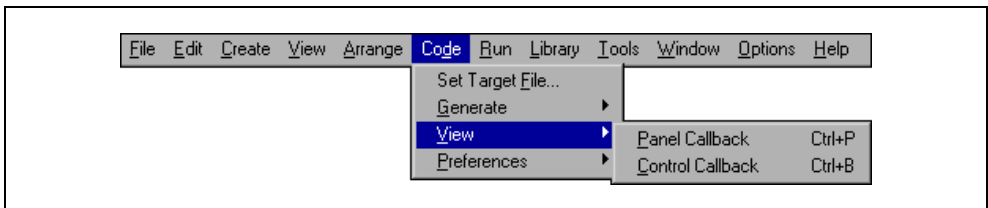


Figure 4-23. View Menu

To view the code for a function from the `.uir` file, select a panel or control and then select **View»Panel Callback** or **View»Control Callback**. The source file containing the callback function appears with the function name highlighted. You also can view the code for a control callback function by clicking on the control with the right mouse button and selecting the **View Control Callback** command from the pop-up menu.



When you choose the **View** command for a callback function, LabWindows/CVI searches for that function in all open Source windows, in all the source files in the project, and in any other open source files. If the function is found in a closed project file, that file is opened automatically.

The **View** command is useful because the callback functions for one user interface can be in several different files, and scrolling the source code is not efficient. With the **View** command, you can move instantly from the user interface file to an object callback function, whether the source file is open or closed.

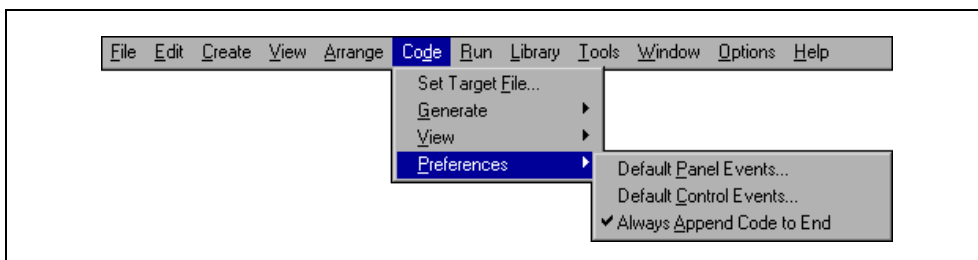
When you are finished reviewing the code, you can return instantly to the `.uir` file from the source file. To return to the `.uir` file, place the cursor on the callback function name or constant name of the User Interface object you want to go to and select the **Find UI Object** command from the **View** menu in the Source window.



**Note** You cannot use the **View** command for menu callback functions.

## Preferences

Use the **Preferences** command to change the default settings of case statements generated for control callback functions and panel callback functions or to specify the target file location for generated code. Figure 4-24 shows the **Preferences** menu.



**Figure 4-24.** Preferences Menu

Use the **Default Panel Events** or **Default Control Events** commands to select which events LabWindows/CVI places into the switch construct of the code for panel or control callback functions, respectively. You can choose from several events, and you can choose to **Add 'Default:' Switch Case**. Selecting **Code»Preferences»Default Panel Events** opens the Panel Callback Events dialog box. Selecting **Code»Preferences»Default Control Events** opens the Control Callback Events dialog box.

To set the **Default Panel Events** or **Default Control Events**, select the events you want to be included in the code as case statements and then click on **OK**. For each option you choose, LabWindows/CVI includes in the source code a case statement that corresponds to this option.

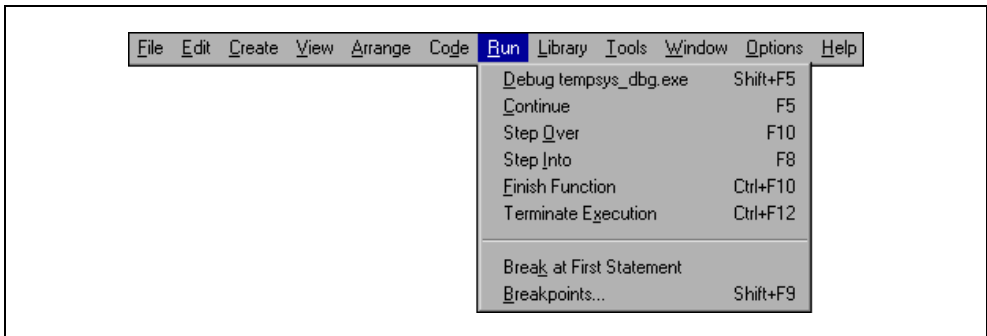


**Note** Default control events are ignored for timer control callbacks, for which the only event cases are `EVENT_TIMER_TICK` and `EVENT_DISCARD`.

When the **Always Append Code to End** command is selected, LabWindows/CVI places the skeleton code for each callback function at the end of the target file. When this option is not selected, newly generated code is placed at the current position of the cursor in the target file.

## Run Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **Run** menu as shown in Figure 4-25. The **Run** menu contains a subset of the commands that appear in the **Run** menu of the Source window.



**Figure 4-25.** Run Menu

Refer to the [Run Menu](#) section of Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for descriptions of each of these commands.

## Library Menu

The **Library** menu for the User Interface Editor window works the same way as the **Library** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Library Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for information on the **Library** menu.

## Tools Menu

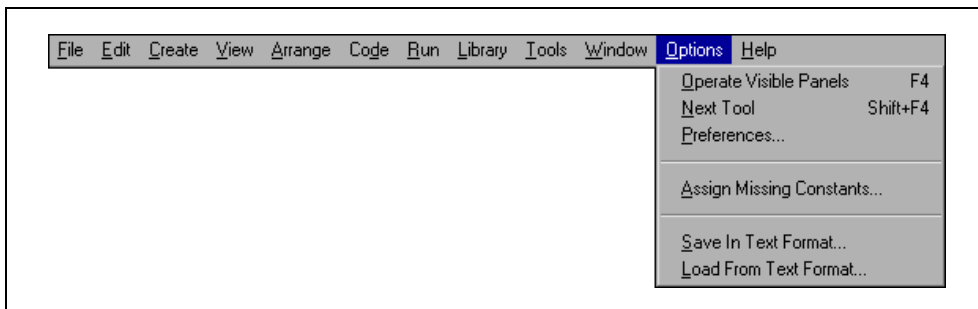
The **Tools** menu for the User Interface Editor window works the same way as the **Tools** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Tools Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for information on the **Tools** menu.

## Window Menu

The **Window** menu in User Interface Editor window works the same way as the **Window** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Window Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Window** menu.

## Options Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in the User Interface Editor window **Options** menu as shown in Figure 4-26.



**Figure 4-26.** Options Menu

### Operate Visible Panels



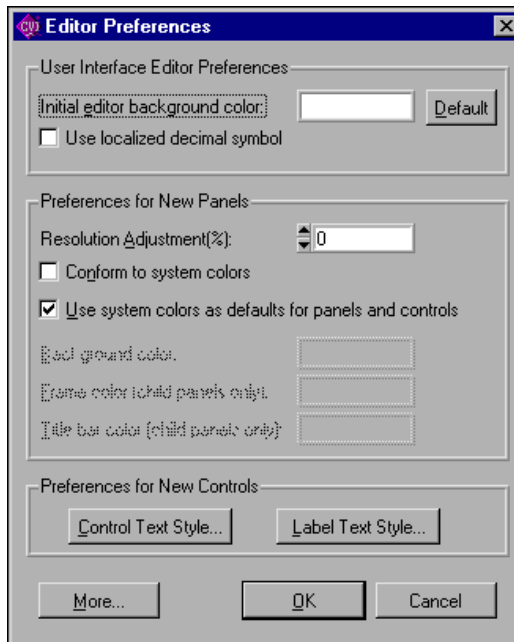
**Operate Visible Panels** allows you to operate the visible panels as you would in an application program. This command has the same effect as clicking on the operating tool, shown at left. When you finish operating the panel, select **Operate Visible Panels** again to return to edit mode.

### Next Tool

The **Next Tool** command in the **Options** menu cycles the User Interface Editor through its four modes. For more information on the operating, editing, labeling, and coloring tools, refer to the [User Interface Editor Overview](#) section earlier in this chapter.

## Preferences

Selecting **Options»Preferences** opens the Editor Preferences dialog box, as shown in Figure 4-27.



**Figure 4-27.** User Interface Preferences Dialog Box

- Use the **User Interface Editor Preferences** section of the Editor Preferences dialog box to set options that affect the operation of the User Interface Editor.
  - **Initial Editor Background Color**—Determines the initial background color of User Interface Editor windows.
  - **Use Localized Decimal Symbol**—Replaces the traditional decimal symbol used by LabWindows/CVI in numeric, graph, and table controls with the decimal symbol specified in the Regional Settings Properties configuration of your Windows Control Panel.
- Use the **Preferences for New Panels** section of the Editor Preferences dialog box to set initial attribute values for each panel that you create in the User Interface Editor.
  - **Resolution Adjustment(%)**—Specifies the degree to which LabWindows/CVI scales your panels and their contents when you display them on screens with resolutions different than the one on which you create them. This option also appears in the Other Attributes dialog box that you can activate from the Edit Panel dialog box by selecting **Edit»Panel** in the User Interface Editor window.

To programmatically override this setting, you can call the `SetSystemAttribute` with the `ATTR_RESOLUTION_ADJUSTMENT` attribute before calling `LoadPanel` or `LoadPanelEx`.

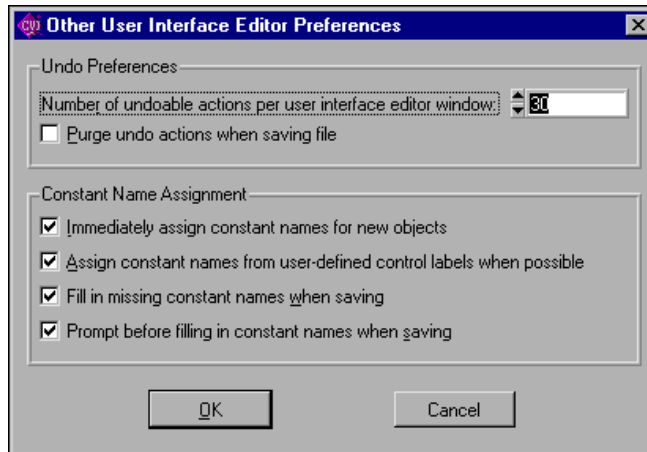
- **Conform to System Colors**—Forces panels and the controls they contain to use the system colors. This option also appears in the Other Attributes dialog box that you can activate from the Edit Panel dialog box by selecting **Edit»Panel**. To programmatically set this option, you can call `SetPanelAttribute` with the `ATTR_CONFORM_TO_SYSTEM` attribute. When this option is enabled, you cannot change any panel or control colors.
- **Use System Colors as Defaults for Panels and Controls**—LabWindows/CVI uses the system colors as the initial colors for panels and controls you create when this box is checked. You can subsequently change the colors without restriction.



**Note** You must disable two options, **Conform to System Colors** and **Use System Colors as Defaults for Panels and Controls**, in order to set the following options: background color, frame color, and title bar color. The frame color and title bar color options have effect only when you load a panel as a child panel. To change each of these three options in the User Interface Editor, you can use the Paintbrush tool on the background, frame, or title bar of a panel. To set these colors programmatically, use `SetPanelAttribute` with the `ATTR_BACKCOLOR`, `ATTR_FRAME_COLOR`, and `ATTR_TITLE_BACKCOLOR` attributes.

- Use the **Preferences for New Controls** section of the Editor Preferences dialog box to set initial attribute values for each control that you create in the User Interface Editor. The **Control Text Style** and **Label Text Style** command buttons allow you to select the initial font and text style for all new controls.

- Click on the **More** button to open the Other User Interface Editor Preferences dialog box shown in Figure 4-28.



**Figure 4-28.** Other User Interface Editor Preferences Dialog Box

- Use the **Undo Preferences** section of the Other User Interface Editor Preferences dialog box to set the number of actions you can undo for each file. If you want the undo buffer to empty every time you save a file, select the option to **Purge Undo Actions When Saving File**.
- The **Constant Name Assignment** section of the Other User Interface Editor Preferences dialog box allows you to set preferences for constant name assignment, when you do not assign constant names yourself.

Constant names link user GUI objects and your program. The User Interface Editor writes all assigned constant names to a header file corresponding to the .uir file.

When you select the **Immediately Assign Constant Names for New Objects** option, the User Interface Editor generates constant names for each object as you create it. For panels and controls, the generated constant name appears in the Edit dialog box the first time you bring it up. For menu bars, the constant names are assigned only when you exit the Menu Bar Editor. In all cases, you can freely modify the generated constant names.

It is recommended that you leave the **Immediately Assign Constant Names for New Objects** option selected. This makes it easier for you to use the other LabWindows/CVI features that have been designed to help you write your program to operate your user interface.

Notice that when the **Immediately Assign Constant Names for New Objects** option is enabled, the **Assign Constant Names from User-Defined Control Labels When Possible** option has no effect. That is because you do not have a chance to customize the control labels before the User Interface Editor generates the constant name. Consequently, the User Interface Editor bases the constant name on the control type.

If you choose to disable the **Immediately Assign Constant Names for New Objects** option, it is recommended that you enable the **Fill In Missing Constant Names When Saving** option.

## Assign Missing Constants

The **Assign Missing Constants** command assigns constant names to all of the objects in the User Interface Editor window that currently do not have constant names. A confirmation dialog box appears showing the number of items that have no constant names.

## Save In Text Format

The **Save In Text Format** command saves the contents of the User Interface Editor window in an ASCII text format. A dialog box appears prompting you to enter the pathname under which to save the text file. The extension `.tui` is recommended for such files. Do *not* use the `.uir` extension.

The ASCII text file contains descriptions of all the objects in the User Interface Editor window. You can call `LoadPanel` and `LoadPanelEx` on `.tui` files.



**Note** If you have a large number of objects in your User Interface Editor window, loading a `.tui` file can take significantly longer than loading a comparable `.uir` file.



**Note** The `.tui` file format in LabWindows/CVI 5.0 and later differs from previous versions. If you use `.tui` files to find differences between versions of your `.uir` files and you created `.tui` files in previous versions of LabWindows/CVI, create new baseline `.tui` files for your `.uir` files.

## Load From Text Format

The **Load From Text Format** command loads into a new User Interface Editor window the objects defined in a file saved using the **Save In Text Format** command. A dialog box appears prompting you for the pathname of the file.

# Help Menu

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The **Help** menu for the User Interface Editor window works the same way as the **Help** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Help Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Help** menu.



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# Source and Interactive Execution Windows

This chapter describes the LabWindows/CVI Source and Interactive Execution windows. Each of these windows supports specific tasks related to developing and executing programs.

## Source Windows

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Source windows display the source code for the programs you develop. These windows behave like standard text editors. You can type text directly into a Source window or load text from an ASCII file into a Source window. You can insert code from LabWindows/CVI function panels directly into Source windows. You can save a program from a Source window as an ASCII file. Source windows can contain up to 1 million lines with up to 254 characters in each line. A tab is one character for the purpose of line length limitation.

When you run a program in a Source window, the program must be complete and obey the syntax rules of ANSI C. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) and [Run Menu](#) sections later in this chapter for more information on running programs.

## Toolbars in LabWindows/CVI

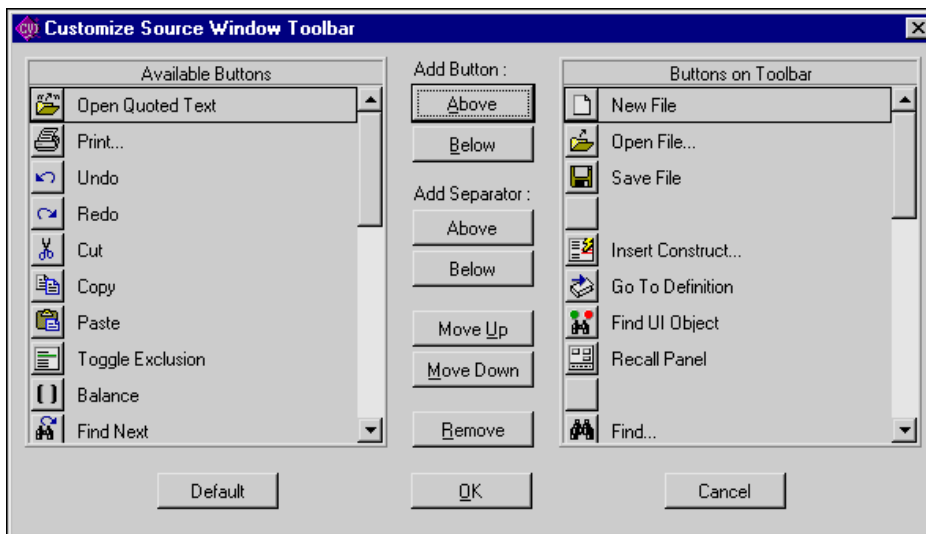
---

The LabWindows/CVI toolbar appears within function panels, in the Function Panel Editor window, and in Source windows. Using the toolbar gives you quick access to common commands, such as **File Open** and **File Save**. You can configure the toolbar to meet your needs or choose not to display it at all.

To find out what a toolbar button does, position the mouse cursor over that button, and either hold the cursor there for a short period of time or right-click on the toolbar button to display the name of the toolbar button.

## Modifying Your Toolbars

To modify a toolbar, choose **Options»Toolbar** to display the Customize Source Window Toolbar dialog box, as shown in Figure 5-1.



**Figure 5-1.** Customize Source Window Toolbar Dialog Box

The list box on the left of the Customize Source Window Toolbar dialog box contains names and icons of toolbar buttons that do not currently appear in the toolbar. The list box on the right contains the names and icons of toolbar buttons that currently appear in the toolbar.

The Customize Source Window Toolbar dialog box gives you several ways to configure your toolbar.

## Adding and Positioning Buttons

Use the Add Button controls to add and position new buttons on the toolbar. First, select the button you want to add to the toolbar from the list box on the left. In the list box on the right, select the button you want to place the new button next to. The **Above** button positions the item you are adding above the button that you selected in the list box on the right. After you click on **OK**, the new item appears to the left of the other button in the toolbar. The **Below** button positions the item you are adding below the button that you selected in the list box on the right. After you click on **OK**, the new item appears to the right of the other button in the toolbar.

## Adding and Positioning Separators

Use the Add Separator controls to add and position separators on the toolbar. Select a button in the list box on the right. The **Above** button adds a separator above the button that you selected in the list box on the right. After you click on **OK**, a small gap (the separator) appears in the toolbar to the left of the selected button. The **Below** button adds a separator below the button that you selected in the list box on the right. After you click on **OK**, a small gap (the separator) appears in the toolbar to the right of the selected button.

## Other Positioning Controls

You can select any item in the list box on the right and use the **Remove** button to remove it from the toolbar. If you remove a button, it moves to the list box on the left. If you remove a separator, it disappears from the list. Your modifications take effect on the toolbar when you click on **OK**.

Click on **Default** to restore the default toolbar configuration for LabWindows/CVI.

To position any item on the toolbar, select it in the list box and click on **Move Up** or **Move Down**. Your modifications take effect on the toolbar when you click on **OK**.

## Notification of External Modification

---

If you have externally modified a file since you last loaded or saved it in LabWindows/CVI and the file is in a Source window, a dialog box appears when you switch back to LabWindows/CVI from another Windows application. You are given the option of updating the Source window from the file on disk, overwriting the file on disk with the contents of the Source window, or doing nothing.

## Context Menus

---

You can open a context menu in the Source window by clicking the right mouse button. The context menu contains a set of the most commonly used menu commands from the Source window menu bar. The set of commands is different depending on whether the mouse is over the text editing area or over the line number or line icon area.

## Interactive Execution Window

---

You can execute selected portions of code in the Interactive Execution window. Unlike the Source window, you do not have to have a complete program in the Interactive Execution window. For instance, you can execute C variable declarations and assignment statements without declaring a `main` function.

Use the Interactive Execution window to test portions of code before you include them in your main program. Also, you can use the Interactive Execution window to execute functions exported by a loaded instrument or by a file in the project if the project has been linked. The Interactive Execution window can access functions and data declared as global in a Source window, but a Source window has no access to the functions and data declared in the Interactive Execution window.

When you execute a function from a function panel, LabWindows/CVI inserts the function call into the Interactive Execution window for execution. In this way, the Interactive Execution window keeps a record of the functions you execute from function panels.

When LabWindows/CVI copies a function call from a function panel to the Interactive Execution window for execution, it inserts the code after all the pre-existing lines. LabWindows/CVI also inserts an include statement for the header file associated with the function in the Interactive Execution window if you have not already included it. When you execute a function call from a function panel, LabWindows/CVI automatically excludes all previous lines in the Interactive Execution window. An *excluded line* is dimmed and the LabWindows/CVI compiler ignores it. Refer to the [Toggle Exclusion](#) section later in this chapter for more information about excluded lines.

When you execute code in the Interactive Execution window, LabWindows/CVI automatically excludes all declarations. This is why you must avoid placing executable statements on the same line as declarations in the Interactive Execution window. Auto-exclusion also occurs when you type a line of code beneath a line that has just been executed. You can manually exclude and include lines with the **Edit»Toggle Exclusion** command.

Declarations in the Interactive Execution window remain in effect until you select **Build»Clear Interactive Declarations** or **Edit»Clear Window**.

Rules for executing code in the Interactive Execution window are as follows:

- When executing code from the Interactive Execution window, data declarations must precede any program statements. Function declarations are also necessary unless you disable the **Require Function Prototypes** option in the Build Options dialog box by selecting **Options»Build Options** in a Project window.

- You cannot include function definitions in the Interactive Execution window. LabWindows/CVI treats the following statements the same:

```
extern int fn (void);

int fn (void);
```

LabWindows/CVI treats the following statements as errors:

```
static int fn (void);

static int fn () {}
```

- LabWindows/CVI treats all global data declarations in the Interactive Execution window as if they are declared as static unless the `extern` keyword precedes them. If the `extern` keyword precedes them, the global declaration must exist in a loaded instrument or in a file in the project.

The following data declaration is invalid in the Interactive Execution window:

```
extern int x=6;
```

## Using Subwindows

---

The Source and Interactive Execution windows support subwindows so that you can have two scrollable editing areas for the same file. To create a subwindow from any of these windows, use the mouse to drag the thin line beneath the menu bar (or toolbar if you have activated the **Toolbar** option from the **View** menu) to a lower position in the window. You can then switch between the subwindows by pressing <F6> or by clicking in a subwindow with the mouse.

## Selecting Text in the Source and Interactive Execution Window

---

Certain LabWindows/CVI commands require that you select the block of text to which the next command applies. In LabWindows/CVI, you can select a range of characters, a range of lines, or a range of columns. When you select a block of text, it is highlighted on the screen.

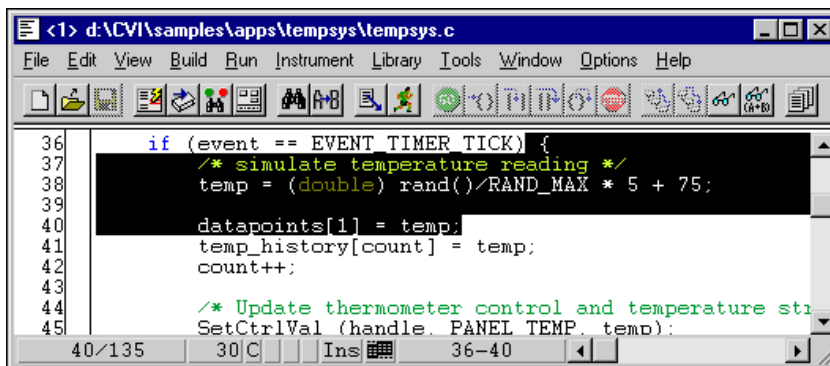
To select text with the keyboard, hold down the <Shift> key as you move the keyboard cursor over the text you want to select. You can use the <Shift> key in combination with any of the keyboard commands for moving the keyboard cursor or scrolling the window.

To select text with the mouse, click on the first character you want to select and drag the mouse over the remaining characters. To select a word, double-click on the word. To select a line, triple-click on the line. If you make a mistake while selecting text, click the mouse or press <Esc> to cancel the selection.

LabWindows/CVI provides three modes for selecting text depending on the state of the graphical icon at the bottom of the window, as illustrated in Figures 5-2, 5-3, and 5-4.



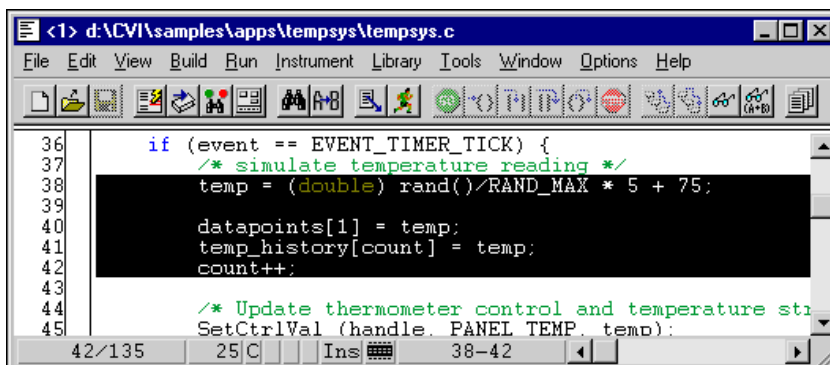
Character Select mode highlights all characters from where you begin selecting text to where you end the selection.



**Figure 5-2.** Selecting Text Using Character Select Mode



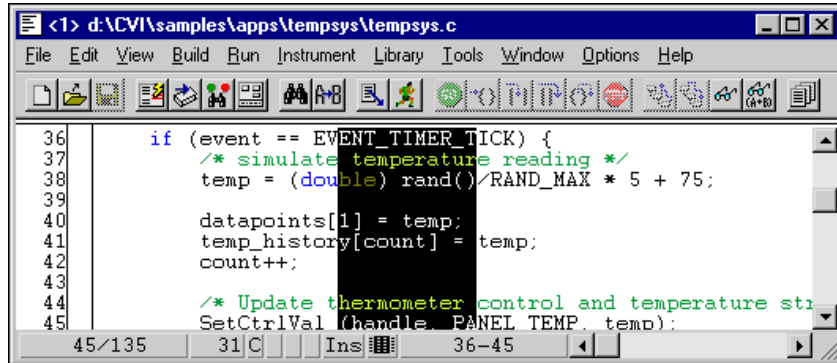
Line Select mode highlights full lines of text.



**Figure 5-3.** Selecting Text Using Line Select Mode



Column Select Mode highlights a rectangular block of text.

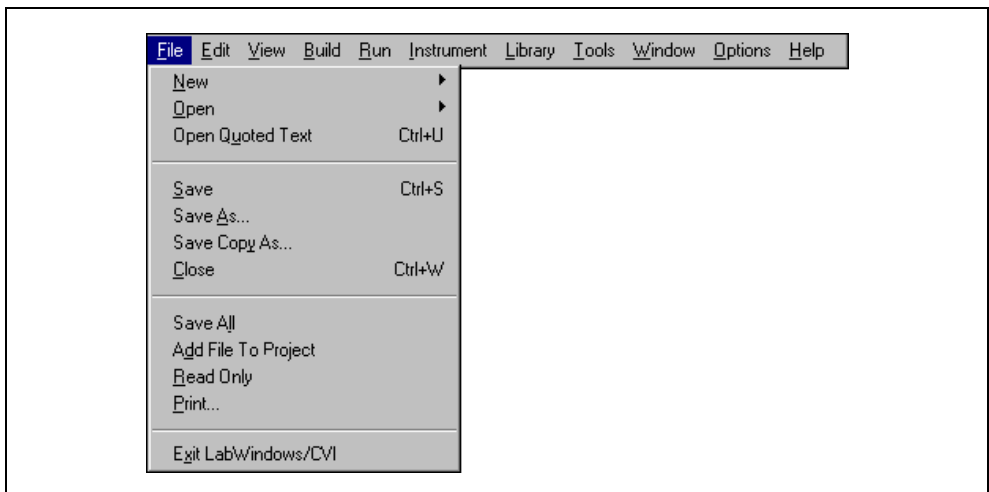


**Figure 5-4.** Selecting Text Using Column Select Mode

You can cycle through these three modes by pressing <Ctrl-Insert> on the keyboard or by clicking the mouse on the graphical icon at the bottom of the window.

## File Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source and Interactive Execution window **File** menu, as shown in Figure 5-5.



**Figure 5-5.** File Menu

## New

The **New** command operates the same way as it does in the Project window. For a description of this command, refer to the discussion of the **New** command in the *File Menu* section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*.

## Open

The **Open** command operates the same as it does in the Project window. For a description of this command, refer to the discussion of the **Open** command in the *File Menu* section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*.

## Open Quoted Text

The **Open Quoted Text** command opens `.c`, `.h`, `.fp`, and `.uir` files that appear by name in the active window. If you select **Open Quoted Text** when the text cursor in the active window is on a line that contains a filename in quotation marks or angle brackets, that file opens in the corresponding window type.

## Save

The **Save** command writes the contents of the active window to disk. If you want to append a different extension, type it in after the filename. If you do not want to append an extension, enter a period after the filename.

## Save As

The **Save As** command writes the contents of the active window to disk using a new filename you specify and changes the name of the active window to the name you specified.

## Save Copy As

The **Save Copy As** command writes the contents of the active window to disk using a filename you specify *without* changing the name of the active window.

## Close

The **Close** command closes the active window. If you have modified the contents of the window since the last save, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save the file to disk.



**Note** The **Hide** command replaces the **Close** command in the Interactive Execution window. The **Hide** command visually closes the Interactive Execution window but retains their contents in memory.



## Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

## Add File to Project

The **Add File to Project** command adds the file in the current window to the project list.

## Read Only

The **Read Only** command suppresses the text editing capabilities in the current window. When you initially open a file, LabWindows/CVI disables the **Read Only** command unless the file is read only on disk.

## Print

The **Print** command prints the window contents to a printer or a file.

## Most Recently Closed Files

For your reference, two lists appear in the **File** menu.

- A list of the four most recently closed files, other than project files
- A list of the four most recently closed project files

## Exit LabWindows/CVI

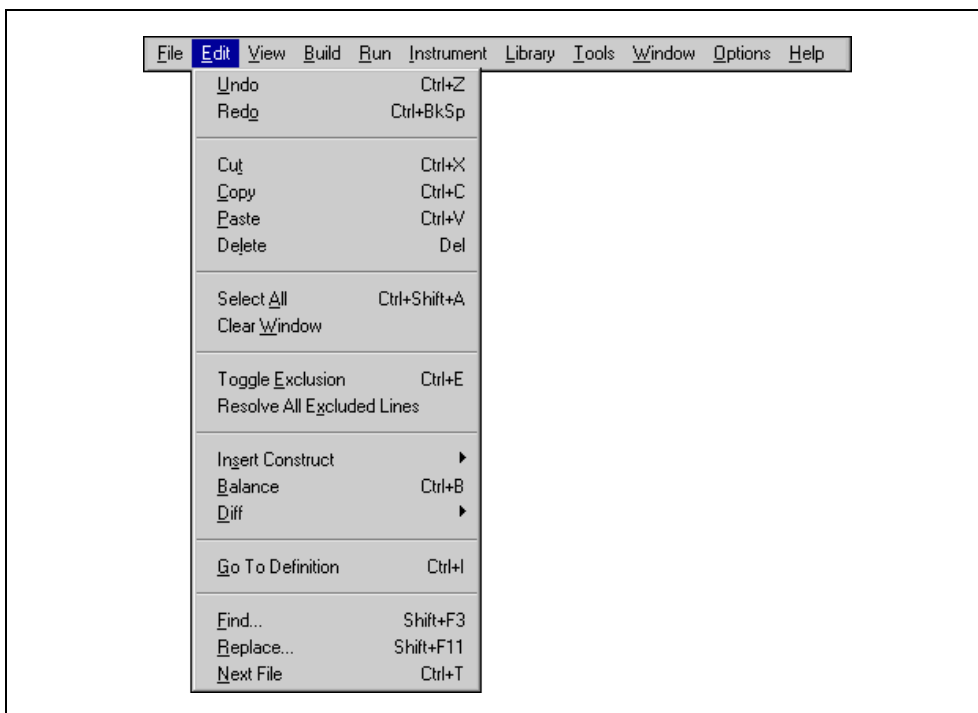
The **Exit LabWindows/CVI** command closes the current LabWindows/CVI session. If you have modified any open files since the last save or if any windows contain unnamed files, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save them to disk.

## Edit Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source or Interactive Execution window **Edit** menu, as shown in Figure 5-6. Use the commands in the **Edit** menu to edit text in Source windows and the Interactive Execution window.



**Note** The [Selecting Text in the Source and Interactive Execution Window](#) section earlier in this chapter describes the procedures for moving the cursor, scrolling, and selecting text.



**Figure 5-6.** Edit Menu



**Note** LabWindows/CVI disables **Undo** and **Redo** until you make an edit. LabWindows/CVI disables the **Cut** and **Copy** commands until you select text and disables **Paste** until you place text on the Clipboard. If you select an edit command while it is disabled, nothing happens.

## Undo and Redo

The **Undo** command reverses your last edit action. LabWindows/CVI stores editing actions in a stack so that sequential **Undo** commands reverse a history of your edit actions. You can set the size of this stack using the **Options»Editor Preferences** command. The maximum capacity of this stack is 1,000 operations.

The **Redo** command reverses your last **Undo** command. If you go too far in using the **Undo** command, you can use **Redo** to reverse your edit actions. LabWindows/CVI enables the **Redo** command only when the previous action was the **Undo** command. Any other action, even moving the cursor, disables the **Redo** command.

## Cut and Copy

To cut or copy text to the Windows Clipboard, select the text you want to place on the Clipboard and then select **Cut** or **Copy** from the **Edit** menu. LabWindows/CVI places the selected text on the Clipboard. If you used the **Copy** command, the text remains in the window. Use the **Cut** command to delete text from the window. Controls you cut or copy do not accumulate on the Clipboard. Every time you cut or copy a control it replaces the previous contents of the Clipboard.

## Paste

The **Paste** command inserts text from the Clipboard.

- If you **Paste** in character-select mode, the characters appear at the cursor on the current line.
- If you **Paste** in line-select mode, the new lines appear above the current line.
- If you **Paste** in column-select mode, the new block of characters appears at the cursor on the current line.
- If you select text before you execute the **Paste** command, the contents of the Clipboard replace the selected text.

You can **Paste** the same information from the Clipboard as many times as you like. Text remains on the Clipboard until you use **Cut** or **Copy** again or until another application overwrites the Clipboard. The **New** and **Open** commands do not erase the Clipboard.

To insert text from the Clipboard, move the cursor to the place you want the text inserted and select **Paste** from the **Edit** menu.

## Delete

The **Delete** command deletes highlighted text without placing the text on the Clipboard.

## Select All

The **Select All** command selects all the text in the Source window and positions the keyboard cursor at the end of the file.

## Clear Window

Use the **Clear Window** command in the Interactive Execution window to clear the contents of the window. The **Clear Window** command also clears any variables declared in the Interactive Execution window.



**Note** The **Clear Window** command is disabled in Source windows.

## Toggle Exclusion

You can specify portions of code to exclude during compilation and execution. LabWindows/CVI ignores excluded code and displays it in a different color than included code.

The **Toggle Exclusion** command marks lines in Source windows and the Interactive Execution window as excluded or included code. This command acts on single and multiple line selections.

You can exclude lines automatically when working in the Interactive Execution window. Refer to the [Interactive Execution Window](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on automatically excluding lines. Select **Edit»Toggle Exclusion** if you want to include these lines.

## Resolve All Excluded Lines

The **Resolve All Excluded Lines** command interactively highlights the next excluded line or set of consecutive excluded lines and allows you to reinclude, comment out, conditionally compile out, delete, or skip the code.

## Insert Construct

The **Insert Construct** command has a submenu of various C programming constructs. Use this command to insert a construct into your Source window at the current keyboard cursor position.

For most of these menu items, a dialog box appears asking you to fill in portions of the construct. You can press <Enter> or click on **OK** without filling in the controls.

When you insert the construct into your program, the keyboard cursor moves to the first location in the construct where you can enter text.

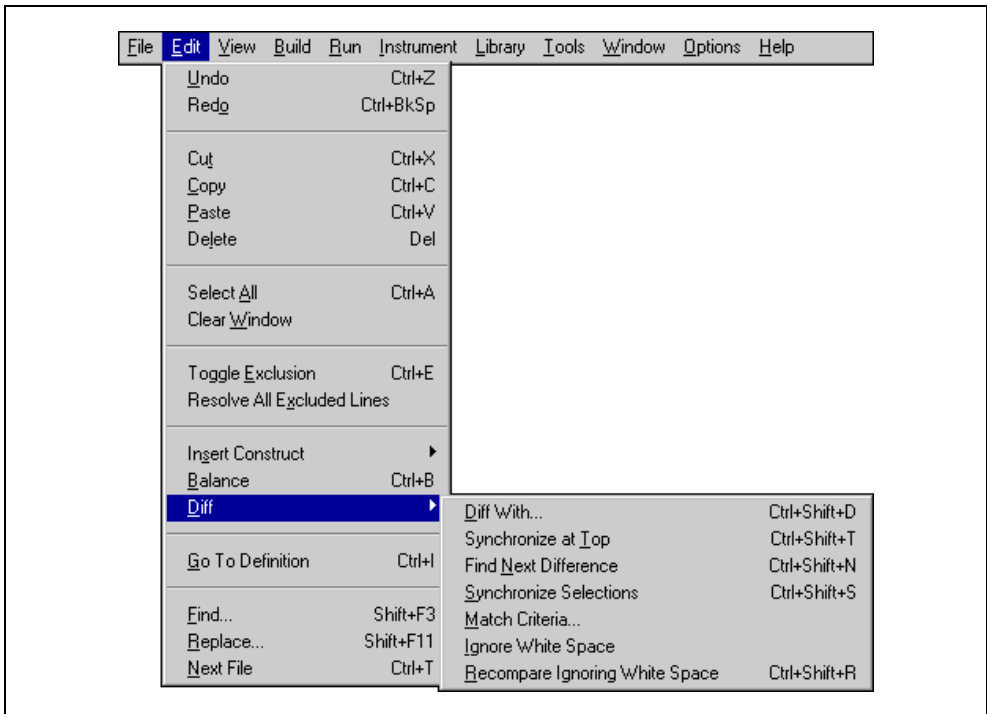
You can set the location of the curly brackets in the construct using the **Options»Bracket Styles** command.

## Balance

Use the **Balance** command to find pairs of opening and closing curly braces, brackets, and parentheses. If the cursor is within (or near) a set of any of these symbols when you select the **Balance** command, LabWindows/CVI highlights all characters between them. This command is useful when you want to find a missing opening or closing symbol and a large number of these symbols are nested inside each other.

## Diff

Use the **Diff** command for comparing two source files to detect any differences. The **Diff** command has a submenu, as shown in Figure 5-7.



**Figure 5-7.** Diff Submenu

Use **Diff With** from a Source window to select another open source file and compare it against the current source file.

After you select the two files to compare, use **Synchronize at Top** to display both files starting at the top.

Select **Find Next Difference** to display the next point where a difference exists in the files.

Highlight a section from one of the files and select **Synchronize Selections** from that window to find a matching section in the other file.

Use **Match Criteria** to establish the number of lines that must match to mark the end of differing sections in a file.

Select **Ignore White Space** to compare files while ignoring spaces, tabs, or other text control characters.

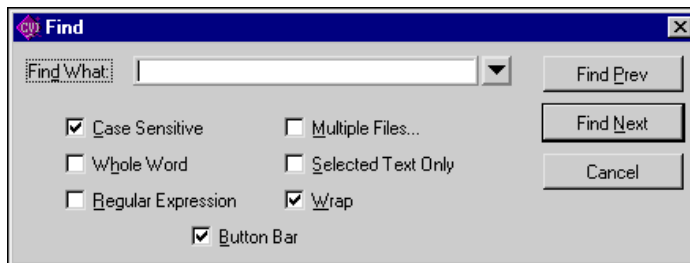
Use **Recompare Ignoring White Space** once a difference has been found to determine if the only difference in the selections involves white space characters.

## Go To Definition

When you place the text cursor on a C identifier and select **Go To Definition**, LabWindows/CVI highlights the definition of the identifier. If the definition is not available, for example, a LabWindows/CVI library function definition, LabWindows/CVI highlights the declaration of the identifier.

## Find

Use the **Find** command to locate particular text in your program. When you select the **Find** command, the Find dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 5-8.



**Figure 5-8.** Find Dialog Box

Enter the text you want to find in the **Find What** text box. If you select text on a single line before you execute the **Find** command, the selected text appears in the **Find What** text box. Otherwise, the text you last searched for appears in the box. You can access a history of

selections for the **Find What** text box by clicking the mouse on the arrow to the right of the **Find What** text box or by using the up or down arrow keys on your keyboard.

- **Case Sensitive**—Finds only the instances of the specified text that match exactly. For example, if `CHR` is the specified text, the **Case Sensitive** option finds `CHR` but not `Chr`.
- **Whole Word**—Finds the specified text only when the characters that surround it are spaces, punctuation marks, or other characters not considered parts of a word. LabWindows/CVI treats the characters A through Z, a through z, 0 through 9, and underscore (`_`) as parts of a word.
- **Regular Expression**—If you select this option, LabWindows/CVI treats certain characters in the **Find What** text box as regular expression characters instead of literal characters. Table 5-1 describes the regular expression characters.

**Table 5-1.** Regular Expression Characters

Purpose	Character	Description	Example
Wildcard matching	<code>.</code> (period)	Match 1 character	<code>a.t</code> matches <code>act</code> and <code>apt</code> but not <code>abort</code>
Matching zero or more occurrences	<code>*</code> (asterisk)	Match 0 or more occurrences of preceding character or expression	<code>0*1</code> matches <code>1</code> , <code>01</code> , <code>001</code> , etc. <code>a.*</code> matches <code>act</code> , <code>apt</code> , and <code>abort</code>
	<code>+</code> (plus sign)	Match 1 or more occurrences of preceding character or expression	<code>0+1</code> matches <code>01</code> , <code>001</code> , <code>0001</code> , ...
Matching either/or	<code>?</code> (question mark)	Match 0 or 1 occurrences of preceding character or expression	<code>0?1</code> matches <code>1</code> and <code>01</code> but not <code>001</code>
	<code> </code> (pipe)	Match either the preceding or following character or expression	<code>a b</code> matches every occurrence of <code>a</code> or <code>b</code> <code>abor ut</code> matches every occurrence of <code>abort</code> or <code>about</code> <code>{if} {else}</code> matches every occurrence of <code>if</code> or <code>else</code>

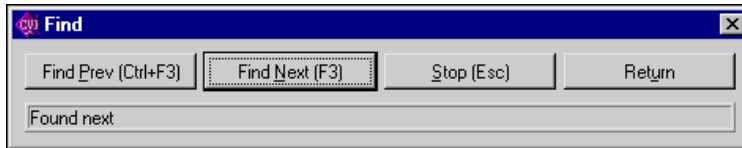
**Table 5-1.** Regular Expression Characters (Continued)

Purpose	Character	Description	Example
Matching the beginning or ending of a line	^ (caret)	Match the beginning of a line	^int matches any line that begins with int
	\$ (dollar sign)	Match the end of a line	end\$ matches any line that ends with end
Grouping expressions	{ } (curly braces)	Group characters or expressions for searches	{if}   {else} matches every occurrence of if or else
Matching a set	[ ] (brackets)	Match any one character or range listed within the brackets	[a-z] matches every occurrence of lowercase letters [abc] matches every occurrence of a, b, or c
	~ (tilde)	If appears immediately after the left bracket, negate the contents of the set	[~a-z] matches everything except lowercase letters [a-z~A-Z] matches all letters and the '~' character
Special characters	\t (backslash t)	Match any tab character	\t3 matches every occurrence of a tab character followed by a 3
	\x (backslash x)	Match any character specified in hex	\x2a matches every occurrence of the '*' character
	\ (backslash)	Include the subsequent regular expression character in the search	\-? matches every occurrence of '-' followed by '?'

- **Multiple Files**—Includes open source files and source files from the project in the search.
- **Selected Text Only**—Searches only within the region of highlighted text when the highlighted text extends beyond one line. LabWindows/CVI automatically enables this option when you open the Find dialog box after selecting multiple lines of text in the Source window.



- **Wrap**—Specifies to continue searching from the beginning of the file once the search has reached the end of the file.
- **Button Bar**—Use this option to enable or disable the built-in dialog box for interactive searching, as shown in Figure 5-9. **Find Prev** and **Find Next** operate the same as they do in the main Find dialog box. **Stop** terminates the search, leaving the keyboard cursor at the current position. **Return** terminates the search, leaving the keyboard cursor at the original position where you began the search. Use the **Keyboard Help** command in the Source Editor window **Options** menu for a list of the search hot keys.

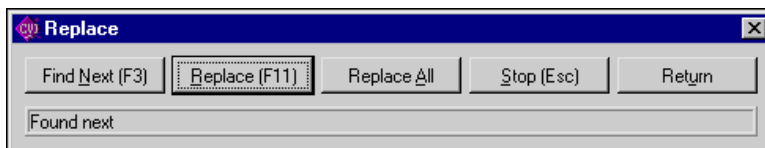


**Figure 5-9.** Find Button Bar

You can bypass the Find dialog box using the keyboard commands. Refer to Appendix A, *Source Window Keyboard Commands*.

## Replace

The **Replace** command operates the same as the **Find** command except that you can replace one search string with another string. Enter the text you want to find in the **Find What** text box and enter into the **Replace With** text box the new text you want to appear. As LabWindows/CVI performs the search, a button bar appears, as shown in Figure 5-10.



**Figure 5-10.** Replace Button Bar

You can bypass the Replace dialog box using the keyboard commands. Refer to Appendix A, *Source Window Keyboard Commands*.

**Find Next** skips to the next occurrence of the search string without making a change.

**Replace** executes the replacement.

**Replace All** finds and replaces all occurrences of the specified text without asking for confirmation.

**Stop** terminates the search, leaving the keyboard cursor at the current position.

**Return** terminates the search leaving the keyboard cursor at the position where you initiated the search.

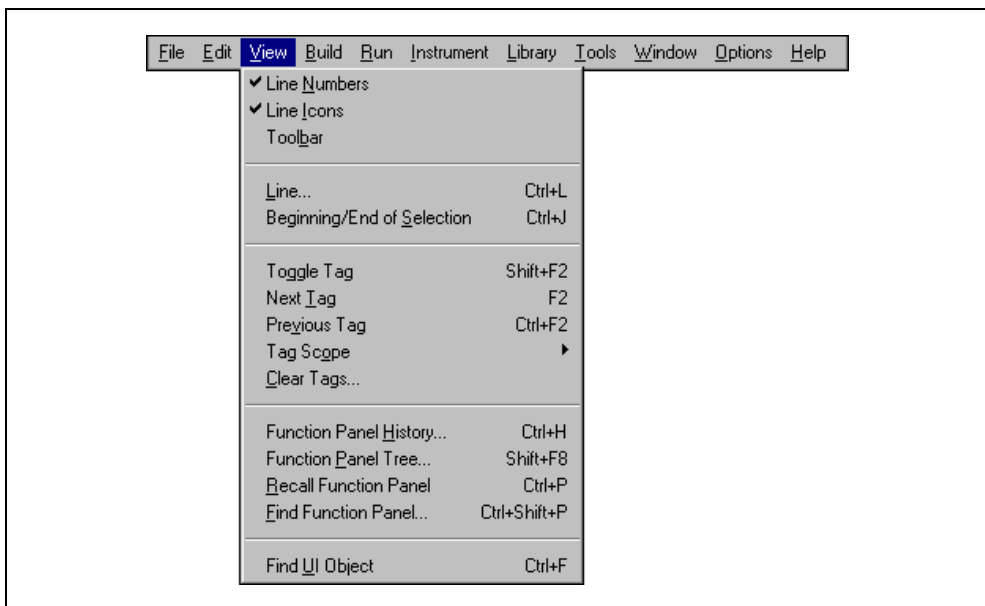
You can bypass the Replace button bar using the keyboard commands in Appendix A, [Source Window Keyboard Commands](#).

## Next File

If you have selected the **Multiple Files** option from either the Find or Replace button bars, you can move to the next file in the search list using this command.

## View Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source and Interactive Execution window **View** menu, as shown in Figure 5-11. Use commands in the **View** menu to display line numbers and tags on source code, step through build errors, and manipulate function panels that pertain to your editing session.



**Figure 5-11.** View Menu

## Line Numbers

The **Line Numbers** command controls the presence of line numbers in a window. A checkmark appears next to the **Line Numbers** item in the **View** menu when you activate the line number display.

## Line Icons

The **Line Icons** command controls the presence of line icons in a window. Line icons indicate the lines that you mark for breakpoint and the lines that you tag. A checkmark appears next to the **Line Icons** item in the **View** menu when you activate the line icons display.



**Note** LabWindows/CVI saves line icons in the project file. Editing source files outside of LabWindows/CVI, however, might invalidate the associated line icons.

## Toolbar

Use the **Toolbar** command to toggle between viewing or not viewing the Source window toolbar.

## Line

The **Line** command moves the cursor to the line that you specify. When you select the **Line** command, a dialog box appears in which you enter the number of the line where you want to position the cursor.

If you specify a line number greater than the total number of lines in the program, the cursor moves to the last line of the program.

## Beginning/End of Selection

The **Beginning/End of Selection** command toggles the window between the beginning and the end of a highlighted block of text. This is useful when you want to verify a selected block of text that is larger than the Source window.

## Toggle Tag

The **Toggle Tag** command toggles the tag associated with the active line. Use tags to mark lines of code that you want to revisit quickly.

## Next Tag

Use the **Next Tag** command to go to the next tagged line. Selecting **Next Tag** repeatedly takes you to all tagged lines in the windows you specify using the **Tag Scope** command.

## Previous Tag

Use the **Previous Tag** command to go to the previous tagged line. Selecting **Previous Tag** repeatedly takes you to all tagged lines in the windows you specify using the **Tag Scope** command.

## Tag Scope

Use the **Tag Scope** command to set which files you want to search with **Next Tag** and **Previous Tag**. You can set the scope to the current window, all open windows, or all files.

## Clear Tags

Use the **Clear Tags** command to selectively remove existing tags.

## Function Panel History

The **Function Panel History** command displays a scrollable list of the function panels you have used during the current LabWindows/CVI session.

## Function Panel Tree

The **Function Panel Tree** command displays the Select Function Panel dialog box for the most recently used function panel.

## Recall Function Panel

When you are editing a function call in a Source window or the Interactive Execution window, you might want to display the function panel corresponding to the call. You can do this with the **Recall Function Panel** command. The **Recall Function Panel** command not only finds and displays the panel but also sets the panel controls so that they contain the parameter values that appear in the function call. After modifying one or more controls, you can replace the original call with the modified call.

## Invoking the Recall Function Panel Command

Before you invoke the **Recall Function Panel** command, you must indicate the function panel you want to recall. The simplest method is to place the cursor on a line that contains a function call or a portion of a function call. Also, you can select, or highlight, a range of lines that contain one or more function calls. You can select part of a line, provided that the part contains a function call.

If a line contains multiple function calls or one function call embedded within another, you can resolve the ambiguity by placing the cursor on or immediately after the function name.

After you indicate the function call, select the **View»Recall Function Panel**. The function panel for that function appears, and the controls contain the parameter values from the call.

## Recalling a Function Panel from a Function Name Only

You can recall a panel from a function name without specifying any of the parameters. If you place the keyboard cursor on or immediately after a function name, **Recall Function Panel** recognizes the function name even if a parameter list does not follow it. Thus, you can simply type a function name into the Source window and execute **Recall Function Panel**.

Also, you can use the **Find Function Panel** command to open a function panel from a function name or a portion of a function name. Refer to the [Find Function Panel](#) section later in this chapter for more information.

## Multiple Panels for One Function

If the selected function appears in more than one function panel window, LabWindows/CVI displays a list of panels. Select one by highlighting the panel name and pressing <Enter> or by double-clicking on the panel name.

## Multiple Functions in One Function Panel Window

If the selected function matches a function panel window that contains multiple function panels, LabWindows/CVI attempts to match the panel to function calls on the lines surrounding the selected call. After the panel appears, you can check how many lines were matched to the function panel window by looking at the Source window. LabWindows/CVI highlights the matched lines.

If you select multiple lines before executing the **Recall Function Panel** command, all function calls in the selected lines must appear in one function panel window, and the order in which the window generates the calls must be identical to the order in which they appear in the selected lines. Otherwise, an error message appears.

## Syntax Requirements for the Recall Function Panel Command

You do not have to compile the file you are working in before you invoke the **Recall Function Panel** command. In fact, the function call you select does not have to be syntactically valid. The only requirement is that you must spell and capitalize the name of the function correctly. If you do not spell and capitalize the function name correctly, LabWindows/CVI displays an error message indicating that the panel could not be found.

## Find Function Panel

When you select the **Find Function Panel** command, a dialog box appears in which you can enter the name of a function. You can enter just a substring, and **Find Function Panel** finds all functions that contain that substring anywhere in their names. For instance, if you enter `ctrl` and click on **OK**, a dialog box appears with a list of functions including `NewCtrl`, `SetCtrlVal`, `GetCtrlVal`, and so on.

You can use a regular expression as your search string. Refer to Table 5-1 earlier in this chapter for a list of regular expression characters.

If a function panel exists for the function, LabWindows/CVI displays the panel. If two or more function panel windows exist for the function, LabWindows/CVI displays a list of the function panels.

The shortcut key for **Find Function Panel** is <Ctrl-Shift-P>.

## Find UI Object

You use the **Find UI Object** command to move directly from a Source window to a User Interface Editor window. To use it, place the cursor on the constant name or callback function name of the user interface panel, control, or menu object you want to view. Then select **View»Find UI Object**. LabWindows/CVI searches each `.uir` file that is currently open or in the project for user interface objects with a matching constant name or callback function name. If LabWindows/CVI finds an object, the User Interface Editor window that contains the object comes to the foreground.

If the matching object is a panel, the panel title bar briefly flashes and the panel becomes active. If the object is a control, **Find UI Object** selects the control. If **Find UI Object** finds a menu object or more than one matching object, a dialog box that contains the list of matches appears. In this dialog box you can view information about each of the objects or select one to edit.

## Build Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source or Interactive Execution window **Build** menu, as shown in Figure 5-12. Use the commands in the **Build** menu to compile files and to build and link projects.

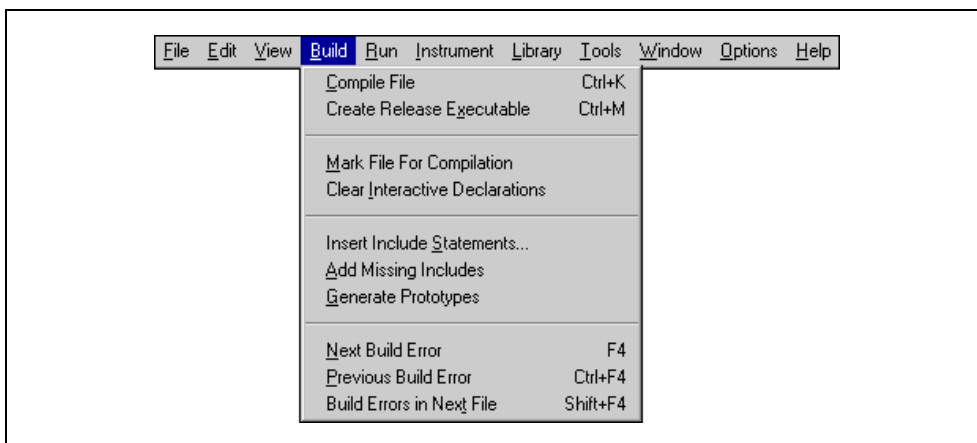


Figure 5-12. Build Menu

### Compile File

You must compile your source code before executing it in a Source window or the Interactive Execution window. The **Compile File** command adds the file to the project if necessary, checks it for syntax errors, and compiles it. If the file has any build errors after LabWindows/CVI completes compilation, a Build Errors dialog box appears.

When you want to call a function that you define in a Source window from another Source window, from the Interactive Execution window, or from a function panel, you must first execute the **Compile File** command in the Source window where you define the function. If you subsequently modify the function, you must recompile the Source window before calling the function again.

Refer to the [Build Options](#) discussion in the [Options Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for more information about compiler options.

### Create Debuggable Executable

This command performs the same action as the **Create Debuggable Executable** command in the Project window **Build** menu. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library

This command performs the same action as the **Create Debuggable Dynamic Link Library** command in the Project window **Build** menu. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Create Release Executable

This command performs the same action as the **Create Release Executable** command in the Project window **Build** menu. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Create Release Dynamic Link Library

This command performs the same action as the **Create Release Dynamic Link Library** command in the Project window **Build** menu. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Create Static Library

This command performs the same action as the **Create Static Library** command in the Project window **Build** menu. Refer to the [Build Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Mark File for Compilation

When LabWindows/CVI marks a source file for compilation, a C appears next to the filename in the Project window. LabWindows/CVI recompiles marked files the next time you build the project. When you modify a source file, LabWindows/CVI automatically marks the file for compilation. You can force LabWindows/CVI to compile a source file on the next build by selecting the **Mark File for Compilation** command.

## Clear Interactive Declarations

Variables you declare in the Interactive Execution window remain in effect until you explicitly remove them. This feature lets you use these variables in succeeding executions of the Interactive Execution window. It also enables different function panels to access the same variables.

When you delete the entire contents of the Interactive Execution window by selecting **Edit>Clear Window**, LabWindows/CVI removes the variables. If you want to remove the variables without deleting the contents of the Interactive Execution window, use the **Clear Interactive Declarations** command.



## Insert Include Statements

The **Insert Include Statements** command invokes a dialog box you can use to select one or more header files to include at the top of the program.

## Add Missing Includes

If, when you last attempted to compile the source file, the compiler reported that function prototypes were missing, **Add Missing Includes** can find include (.h) files that contain some or all the missing prototypes. It inserts `#include` statements for these files into your source file at the current cursor position. LabWindows/CVI adds `#include` statements only for libraries or instrument drivers that appear in the **Instrument** or **Library** menu.

## Generate Prototypes

After you compile a source file, you can use the **Generate Prototypes** command to generate a file that contains declarations for global and static functions and external declarations for global variables. The command generates the file into a new Source window. You can copy these declarations into your source and header files.

## Next/Previous Build Error

If, when you compile a file or build your project, LabWindows/CVI displays multiple errors, you can use the **Next Build Error** command to step to the next build error. LabWindows/CVI highlights source code as you step through the errors. You can use the **Previous Build Error** command to step to the previous build error.

## Build Errors in Next File

If, when you build your project, LabWindows/CVI displays errors for multiple files, you can use the **Build Errors in Next File** command to step to your next file with build errors. LabWindows/CVI highlights source code as you step through the errors.

## Run Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source or Interactive Execution window **Run** menu, as shown in Figure 5-13. Use the commands in the **Run** menu to run and debug your program.

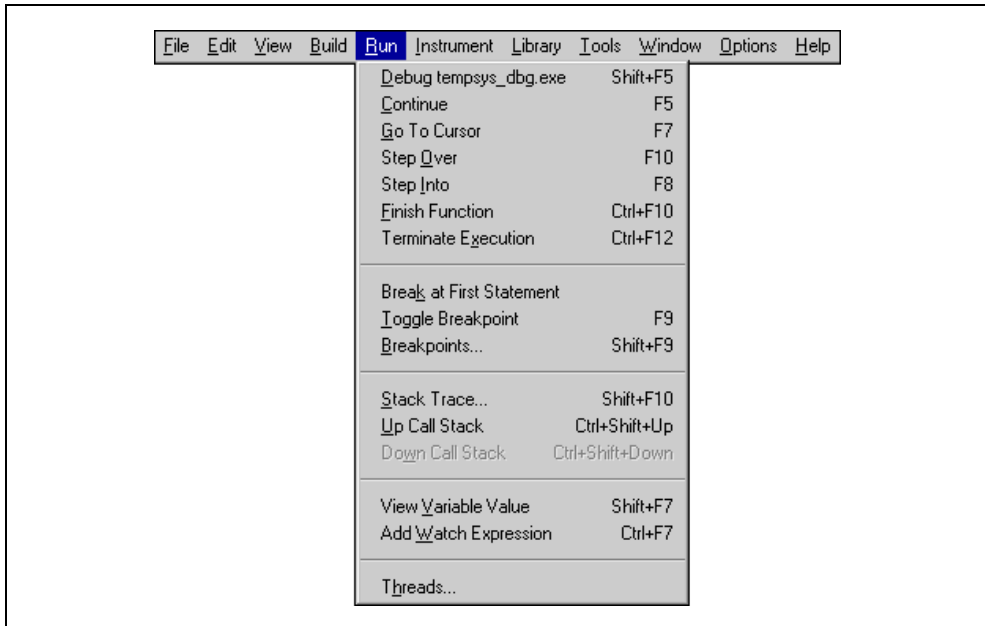


Figure 5-13. Run Menu

## Introduction to Breakpoints and Watch Expressions

It is important to understand the concepts of breakpoints and watch expressions before you learn about the commands in the **Run** menu.

You can pause the execution of a program without aborting it altogether by marking breakpoints in your code. You can use these breakpoints to interrupt program execution for debugging. Breakpoints can be either conditional or unconditional. Breakpoints apply to specific lines of code, but LabWindows/CVI maintains them separately from your source file. If you modify your source code outside of the LabWindows/CVI environment, you might invalidate breakpoint position information. You can use the `Breakpoint` function to insert a breakpoint directly in your source file.

You also can use watch expressions for debugging. With watch expressions, you can specify that LabWindows/CVI suspend execution conditionally without regard to a specific line of code.



**Note** Breakpoints and watch expressions apply only to source code modules. You cannot set breakpoints in include files.

## Breakpoint State

When a program reaches a breakpoint, LabWindows/CVI positions the keyboard cursor at the next program statement to execute and outlines the statement. You cannot edit the source code in the window while the breakpoint is in effect. However, you can use many other features of the LabWindows/CVI environment. For instance, you can look at other windows, change the state of breakpoints, and modify the value of variables in the Variables, Array Display, and String Display windows. Also, if you are at a breakpoint in a Source window, you can execute code in the Interactive Execution window or in a function panel.

To resume the execution after a breakpoint, you have several options under the **Run** menu. You can restart the project at a breakpoint by selecting **Debug**. To halt the execution of a program at a breakpoint, select **Terminate Execution** or press <Ctrl-F12> while a LabWindows/CVI environment window is active.

## Setting and Clearing Breakpoints

You can set and clear breakpoints in the following ways.

- If you select **View»Line Icons**, click the mouse in the line icon area next to a line of code to set or clear a breakpoint on that line.
- Move the cursor to the line of code where you want to set or clear a breakpoint and select **Run»Toggle Breakpoint** or press <Shift-F9>.
- Select **Run»Breakpoints** to edit all breakpoints in the project and the Interactive Execution window. You also can use the **Breakpoints** command to set conditional breakpoints. Refer to the *Conditional Breakpoints* section later in this chapter for information about conditional breakpoints.
- Select **Run»Break at First Statement** to break on the first executable statement in the project or the Interactive Execution window.
- You can set breakpoints directly in your source code using the `Breakpoint` function.
- You can manually suspend execution while your program runs if your program checks for user input. For example, if your program makes calls to `RunUserInterface` or `scanf`, pressing <Ctrl-F12> while a LabWindows/CVI environment window is active causes a breakpoint state.

## Conditional Breakpoints

Set conditional breakpoints by selecting **Run»Breakpoints**. When you assign a conditional breakpoint to a line in your program, LabWindows/CVI evaluates an expression you supply, such as `x==100` or `y<0`, before executing the line. If the expression is true, program execution suspends.

If you assigned these expressions to line 23 in your program, you would have to define `x` and `y` before line 23.

## Watch Expressions

You can use watch expressions to suspend program execution conditionally. Watch expressions do not apply to specific lines of code. Instead, LabWindows/CVI evaluates them before each statement in your source code. Refer to Chapter 7, [Variables and Watch Windows](#), for more information about watch expressions.

## Debug/Run Interactive Statements

### Running in a Source Window

If you have an executable project loaded, the **Debug xxx.exe** command runs the project's target executable for the currently selected configuration. You set the active configuration by selecting **Build»Configuration** in a Project window. If you have a DLL project loaded, the **Debug xxx.exe** command runs the executable specified by **Run»Select External Process**. Before LabWindows/CVI runs the executable, it compiles any source files that need to be compiled and builds the project's target executable or DLL if you have made changes since the target DLL or executable was last built.

### Running in the Interactive Execution Window

Select **Run Interactive Statements** in the Interactive Execution window to execute code in that window. You do not have to enter a complete program in the Interactive Execution window. For instance, you can execute variable declarations and assignment statements in C without declaring a `main` function.

You can use the Interactive Execution window to test portions of code before including them in your main program. You also can use the Interactive Execution window to execute functions exported by a loaded instrument or by a file in the project if the project has been linked. The Interactive Execution window can access functions and data declared as global in a Source window, but a Source window cannot access the functions and data declared in the Interactive Execution window.

Refer to the [Interactive Execution Window](#) section earlier in this chapter for the rules governing code execution in the Interactive Execution window.

LabWindows/CVI does not disturb asynchronous I/O, RS-232 ports, opened files, and User Interface Library resources you use in the Interactive Execution window at the beginning or end of execution in the Interactive Execution window. LabWindows/CVI terminates, closes, or deletes these program elements only when one of the following events occur:

- You select **Build»Clear Interactive Declarations**.
- You select **Edit»Clear Window**.

- You link a project.
- You run a project.

## Run-Time Error Reporting

LabWindows/CVI reports various run-time errors during the execution of a program. One example of a run-time error is a call to a LabWindows/CVI library function with an array or string that is too small to hold the output data.

When such errors occur, a dialog box appears identifying the type of error and the location in the file where the error occurred. LabWindows/CVI then displays the error in the Run-Time Errors window.

LabWindows/CVI suspends the program so you can inspect the values of variables in the Variables window. To terminate a program that suspended because of a run-time error, select **Run»Terminate Execution** or use the shortcut key <Ctrl-F12> while a LabWindows/CVI environment window is active.

## Continue

Use the **Continue** command to resume program execution when in a breakpoint state.

## Go To Cursor

When the program is in a breakpoint state, you can move the keyboard cursor to a line in the program and select **Run»Go To Cursor**. Program execution then continues until it reaches that line, where it enters another breakpoint state.

## Step Over

Use the **Step Over** command to execute an outlined statement when in a breakpoint state. If the program last suspended on a function call statement, **Step Over** executes the entire function and then enters a breakpoint state on the statement following the function call. If LabWindows/CVI encounters a breakpoint within the function call, **Step Over** pauses at the breakpoint.

## Step Into

The **Step Into** command is similar to the **Step Over** command except that after the program suspends operation at a function call, **Step Into** enters the function and suspends at the first statement of the function. **Step Into** can enter a function only if you define it in a source file. Otherwise, **Step Into** executes the entire function and suspends execution on the statement following the function call.

## Finish Function

The **Finish Function** command resumes execution through the end of the current function and breakpoints on the next statement.

## Terminate Execution

The **Terminate Execution** command terminates a program that is suspended at a breakpoint. The shortcut key for terminating execution of a suspended program or suspending a running program while a LabWindows/CVI environment window is active is <Ctrl-F12>.

## Break at First Statement

**Break at First Statement** is a run mode that enters a breakpoint state on the first executable statement in your source code. When activated, LabWindows/CVI puts a checkmark beside this command in the menu.

## Toggle Breakpoint

The **Toggle Breakpoint** command toggles the state of the breakpoint on the current line.

## Breakpoints

The **Breakpoints** command opens the Breakpoints dialog box, which contains a list of the breakpoints in the project, as illustrated in Figure 5-14. Also, you can open this dialog box by right-clicking in the line icons column and selecting **Breakpoints** from the pop-up menu.

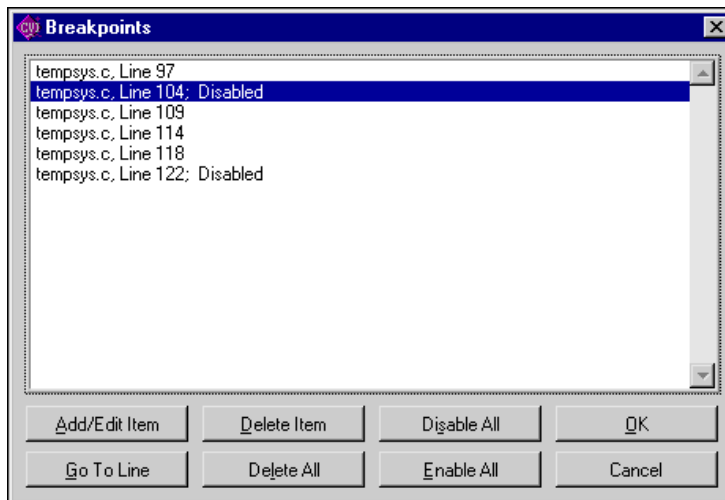
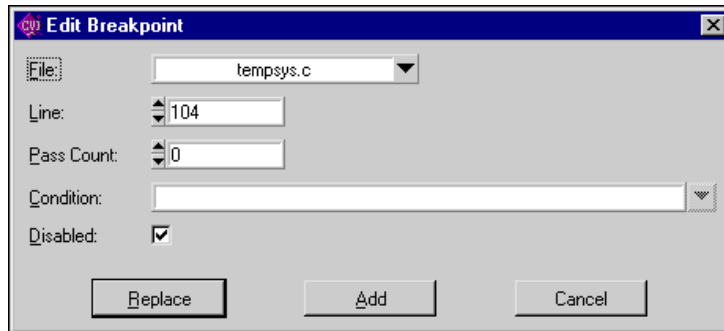


Figure 5-14. Breakpoints Dialog Box

Use the **Add/Edit Item** button to edit a single breakpoint with the Edit Breakpoint dialog box, as shown in Figure 5-15.



**Figure 5-15.** Edit Breakpoint Dialog Box

- **File**—Use this control to select the source file that contains the breakpoint you want to edit.
- **Line**—Use this control to select the line that contains the breakpoint you want to edit.
- **Pass Count**—Use this control to select the number of times that the source code line executes before the breakpoint occurs.
- **Condition**—Use this box to enter an optional expression that LabWindows/CVI evaluates before it executes the source code line. If the condition is true, your program enters a breakpoint state; otherwise, execution continues. Refer to the [Conditional Breakpoints](#) section earlier in this chapter for examples of conditional expressions.
- **Disabled**—Use this checkbox to disable the breakpoint. The breakpoint icon in the Source window changes color to indicate that you disabled it.
- After you set all the breakpoint attributes in the Edit Breakpoint dialog box, you can **Replace** the breakpoint with the new attributes, **Add** the breakpoint to the breakpoint list, or **Cancel** the operation.

The **Go to Line** button takes you to the source code location of the currently selected breakpoint.

The **Delete Item** button deletes the currently selected breakpoint.

The **Delete All** button deletes all the breakpoints.

The **Disable All** button forces LabWindows/CVI to ignore all the breakpoints. The breakpoint icons in the Source window change color to indicate that you disabled them.

The **Enable All** button activates all the breakpoints. The breakpoint icons in the Source window change color to indicate that you enabled them.

The **OK** button accepts the current breakpoint attributes, and the **Cancel** button cancels the current operation.

## Stack Trace

You can use the **Stack Trace** command only when in a breakpoint state. **Stack Trace** opens a dialog box that lists the currently active functions in the program, displaying the most recently called function at the top and the initial function at the bottom. If you highlight a function in the list and select **Display**, a Source window appears with the file that contains that function. LabWindows/CVI highlights the last statement that your program executed in that function.

## Up Call Stack

You can use the **Up Call Stack** command only when in a breakpoint state. **Up Call Stack** moves up one level in the function call stack.

## Down Call Stack

You can use the **Down Call Stack** command only when in a breakpoint state. **Down Call Stack** moves down one level in the function call stack.

## View Variable Value

**View Variable Value** is a convenient way to view the contents of arrays, structures, and global variables that appear in source code. Highlight the variable that you want to see and select **View Variable Value**. Depending on the type of the variable, the Variables, Array Display, or String Display window appears with your selected variable highlighted.

## Add Watch Expression

**Add Watch Expression** is a convenient way to view the value of an expression that appears in source code. Highlight the expression that you want to see and select **Add Watch Expression**. The Watch window appears with the expression you selected.

## Threads

The **Threads** command brings up a dialog box listing the threads in the program being debugged. Use this dialog box to select the threads whose local variables and call stack you wish to view. When you select a thread from this dialog box and click on **OK** to close the dialog box, LabWindows/CVI displays the local variables for the selected thread in the variable display and displays the current source position of the thread in a Source window. The **Up Call Stack**, **Down Call Stack**, and **Call Trace** commands in the Source windows **Run** menu display information on the currently selected thread. The Watch display shows the thread specific values of the expressions in the Watch window.



## Instrument Menu

The **Instrument** menu for Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Instrument** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Instrument Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Instrument** menu.

## Library Menu

The **Library** menu for Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Library** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Library Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Library** menu.

## Tools Menu

This section explains how to use the commands in a Source window **Tools** menu, as shown in Figure 5-16.

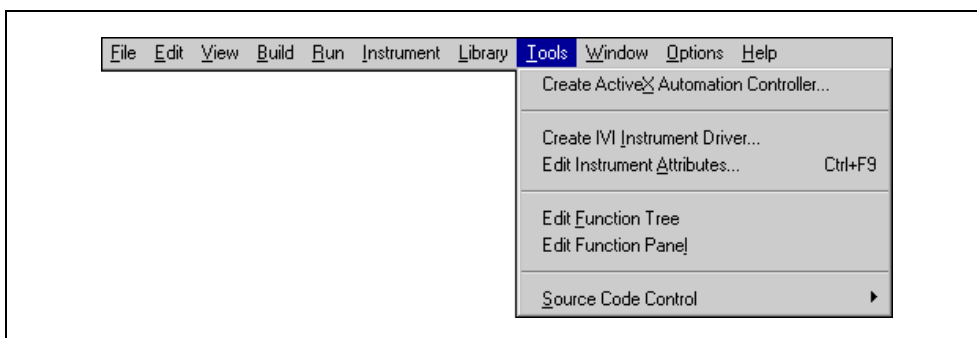


Figure 5-16. Tools Menu

## Create ActiveX Automation Controller

Use the **Create ActiveX Automation Controller** command to generate a new instrument driver for an ActiveX Automation server. The **Create ActiveX Automation Controller** command for Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Create Active X Automation Controller** in the Project window. Refer to the [Create ActiveX Automation Controller](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on this command.

## Create IVI Instrument Driver

Use the **Create IVI Instrument Driver** command (the Instrument Driver Development Wizard) to create the source file, include file, and function panel file for controlling an instrument. You can base the new instrument driver on one of the following:

- An existing driver for a similar instrument
- The core IVI driver template
- An IVI instrument class template

The Instrument Driver Development Wizard copies the template or existing driver files and replaces all instances of the original instrument prefix with the prefix you select for your new driver.

Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on the Instrument Driver Development Wizard.

## Edit Instrument Attributes

Use the **Edit Instrument Attributes** command to add, delete, or edit attributes for an IVI instrument driver. You can invoke this command only if the file in the Source window has the same path and base filename as an instrument driver function panel (.fnp) file and its associated .sub file. The command is useful only if you used the **Create IVI Instrument Driver** command to generate the instrument driver files.

The **Edit Instrument Attributes** command analyzes the instrument driver files to find all the attributes the driver uses. It then opens a dialog box that displays the attributes and various information about them. In the dialog box, you can add or delete attributes, modify their properties, and enter help text for them. When you apply the changes, the command modifies the source, include, and function panel files for the instrument driver.

If you invoke the command when the text cursor is over the defined constant name or callback function name for one of the attributes, the dialog box appears with that attribute selected in the list box.

Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for more information on the **Edit Instrument Attributes** command.

## Edit Function Tree

Use **Edit Function Tree** command to display the Function Tree Editor window for the function panel (.fnp) file associated with the file in the Source window. The function panel file must have the same path and base filename as the file in the Source window.

## Edit Function Panel

Use the **Edit Function Panel** command to display the Function Panel Editor window for a function defined in an instrument driver source file. You can use this command only if the file in the Source window has the same path and base filename as an instrument driver function panel (.fcp) file. The text cursor must be over the name of a function for which there is a function panel in the .fcp file.

## Source Code Control

The **Source Code Control** command for the Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Source Code Control** command in the Project window. Refer to the [Source Code Control Options](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information.

## Window Menu

The **Window** menu in Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Window** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Window Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Window** menu.

## Options Menu

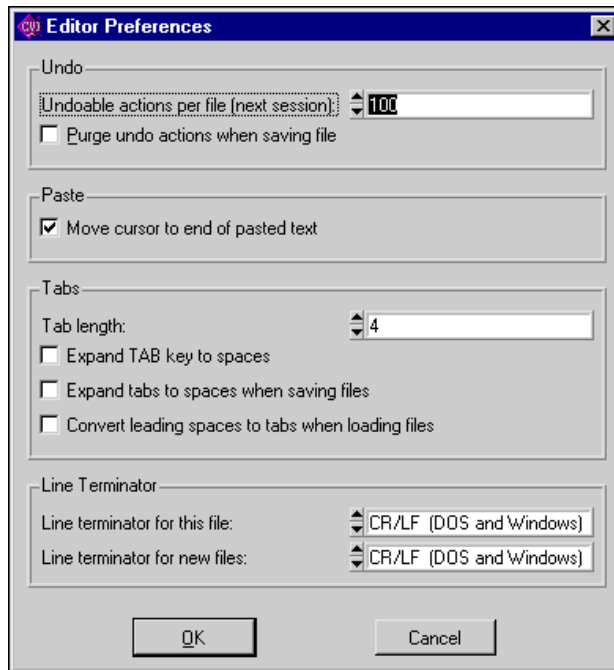
Use the commands in the **Options** menu to set up preferences in the LabWindows/CVI environment and execute various LabWindows/CVI utilities. Figure 5-17 shows the **Options** menu.



Figure 5-17. Options Menu

## Editor Preferences

The **Editor Preferences** command invokes the dialog box, shown in Figure 5-18, that you can use to set up Source window editor preferences.



**Figure 5-18.** Editor Preferences

- **Undoable Actions Per File (Next Session)**—Use this option to set the number of actions per file that you can undo.
- **Purge Undo Actions When Saving File**—Use this option to clear the accumulated list of editing actions each time you save a file.
- **Move Cursor to the End of Pasted Text**—Use this option to put the cursor at the end of the pasted text. Leave this option blank to put the cursor at the beginning of the pasted text.
- **Tab Length**—Use this option to set the tab length. Activate the options to request LabWindows/CVI to convert tab characters into spaces when saving files and convert leading spaces to tab characters when loading files. These options are convenient if you use another editor or a printer that does not support tab characters.
- **Line Terminator for This File and Line Terminator for New Files**—LabWindows/CVI can read source files with any of the commonly used line-termination sequences. It remembers what line-termination sequence was found in

each file and uses the same sequence when saving each file. If you want to change that sequence because you want to load the file into another editor, use the **Line Terminator** option as follows:

- If you want to load your text file into DOS/Windows editors, select CR/LF termination.
- If you want to load your text file into a Macintosh editor, select CR termination.

## Toolbar

Use the **Toolbar** command to select which icons appear in the Source window toolbar.

## Bracket Styles

The **Bracket Styles** command allows you to set the location of curly brackets when the following commands generate them in your program.

- The **Edit»Insert Construct** command in a Source window.
- The **Code»Generate** command in a the User Interface Editor window.

You can specify two bracket styles: one for functions and another for statements, such as `if` and `switch` statements.

## Font

Use the **Font** command to select the font and font size for text in Source windows, Interactive Execution windows, and Variables windows. You can select from a list of monospace fonts.

## Colors

The **Colors** command for the Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same as the **Colors** command in the Project window. Refer to the [Options Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for a more information.

## Syntax Coloring

When you enable the **Syntax Coloring** command, LabWindows/CVI color codes the various types of tokens in your source and include files. The following are different types of tokens that can be color coded.

- C keywords
- Identifiers
- Comments
- Integers
- Real numbers

- Strings
- Preprocessor directives
- User-defined tokens

Set the color for a token type by selecting **Options»Colors**.

Create the list of user-defined tokens by selecting **Options»User Defined Tokens for Coloring**.

## User Defined Tokens for Coloring

Use the **User Defined Tokens for Coloring** command to define tokens for display in a unique color when you enable the **Syntax Coloring** command. Use the **Colors** command to set the color. Each token must be in the form of a valid C identifier. For each token, you can choose whether to save it in the project file or from one LabWindows/CVI session to another.

## Translate DOS LW Program

Use the **Translate DOS LW Program** command to convert a source file written in LabWindows for DOS so that it can run in LabWindows/CVI. Refer to Chapter 12, *Converting LabWindows for DOS Applications*, in the *Getting Started with LabWindows/CVI* manual for details about converting .c, .uir, .lbw, and .obj files from LabWindows for DOS for use in LabWindows/CVI.

## Generate DLL Import Source

This command generates source code that you can use to create a DLL import library. In general, it is not necessary to use this command. For most cases, you can generate a DLL import library directly using the **Generate DLL Import Library** command. Use this command only when you must do special processing in the DLL import library. LabWindows/CVI never requires such special processing.

LabWindows/CVI enables the **Generate DLL Import Source** command only when you have an include file in the Source window. The include file must contain declarations of all the DLL functions you want to access. When you execute the command, a dialog box appears in which you enter the pathname of the DLL.

The **Generate DLL Import Source** command generates the import library source into a new Source window. You can modify the code, including making calls to functions in other source files. Create a new project that contains the source file and any other files it references. Select **Build»Target Type»Static Library** in the Project window. Execute the **Create Static Library** command.



**Note** You cannot export variables from a DLL using the import library source code this command generates. When you want to export a variable, create functions to get and set its value or create a function to return a pointer to the variable.



**Note** When you edit the source code this command generates, you cannot use the `__import` qualifier in the function declarations in the DLL include file.



**Note** The import source code does not operate in the same way as a normal DLL import library. When you link a normal DLL import library into an executable, the operating system attempts to load the DLL as soon as the program starts. The import source code operates in such a way that the DLL does not load until the user makes the first function call into it.

## Generate DLL Import Library

This command generates a DLL import library. LabWindows/CVI enables **Generate DLL Import Library** only when you have an include file in the Source window. The include file must contain declarations of all the functions and global variables you want to access from the DLL. When you execute the command, a dialog box appears giving you the option to generate an import library for each of the compatible external compilers rather than just for the current compatible compiler. Enter the pathname of the DLL in the file dialog box that appears.

The **Generate DLL Import Library** command generates a `.lib` file with the same base filename as the include file. If you choose to create an import library for each compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the files in subdirectories named `msvc`, `borland`, `watcom`, and `symantec`. LabWindows/CVI creates a copy of the library for the current compatible compiler in the directory of the DLL.


## Generate Visual Basic Include

This command generates a Visual Basic include file from the `.h` file of an instrument driver. Use this command if you are porting an instrument driver to a DLL for use in Visual Basic.

## Create Object File

You can use the **Create Object File** command to compile the contents of a Source window into an object file. Compiled files consume less memory and run faster than source files. They are especially useful for instrument driver programs because they load faster. Compiled files cannot be debugged, however, and they do not have run-time error checking.



**Note** If the source file is in the project and you do not want to debug it, use the **Compile Without Debugging** option in the Project window rather than the **Create Object File** command. You enable the **Compile Without Debugging** option by double-clicking in the  icon column to the right of the source filename in the Project window.

The **Create Object File** command gives you the option of creating an object file for each of the compatible external compilers rather than just for the current compatible compiler. If you choose to create an object file for each compiler, LabWindows/CVI creates the files in subdirectories named `msvc`, `borland`, `watcom`, and `symantec`. LabWindows/CVI creates a copy of the object file for the current compatible compiler in the parent directory.

You can compile your file using a third-party compiler LabWindows/CVI supports. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information on compatible external compilers. These compiled files are smaller and execute faster than object files LabWindows/CVI creates. You can use the **Create Object File** command if you do not have access to another compiler.

## Help Menu

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The **Help** menu for Source and Interactive Execution windows works the same way as the **Help** menu in the Project window except that it also includes **Keyboard Help**. Refer to the [Help Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Help** menu.

## Keyboard Help

The **Keyboard Help** command invokes a scrollable list of keyboard shortcut keys. Appendix A, [Source Window Keyboard Commands](#), shows these shortcut keys.



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# Using Function Panels

This chapter describes how to use LabWindows/CVI function panels to generate code to call functions in any of the LabWindows/CVI libraries.

A function panel is an interface to the functions in the LabWindows/CVI libraries and instrument drivers. You can use function panels to help generate and test function calls within LabWindows/CVI.

A Function Panel window generates one or more function calls with function parameters you specify in the function panel. LabWindows/CVI can execute these functions immediately in the Interactive Execution window. When you execute a function panel, LabWindows/CVI copies the generated code to the Interactive Execution window and executes it. The first time you execute a function panel for an instrument driver or library, LabWindows/CVI creates and executes an `#include` statement for the header file associated with the instrument driver or library. Other sections of this chapter discuss the relationship between a function panel and the Interactive Execution window in more detail.

Instead of executing the function call, you can choose to copy the function call code to a Source window. You can later recall the function panel from the Source window by selecting **View»Recall Function Panel** in a Source window.

Normally, you use function panels to call into instrument drivers in the **Instrument** menu and libraries in the **Library** menu. Refer to the [Using Instrument Drivers](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for detailed information on the relationship between instrument drivers and function panels. Also, you can use function panels to call functions in the project, as long as the functions are declared in the Interactive Execution window. Thus, you can create function panels for functions that you call frequently, even if you do not keep the functions in a separate file. Refer to the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide* for detailed information about creating function panels.

## Accessing Function Panels

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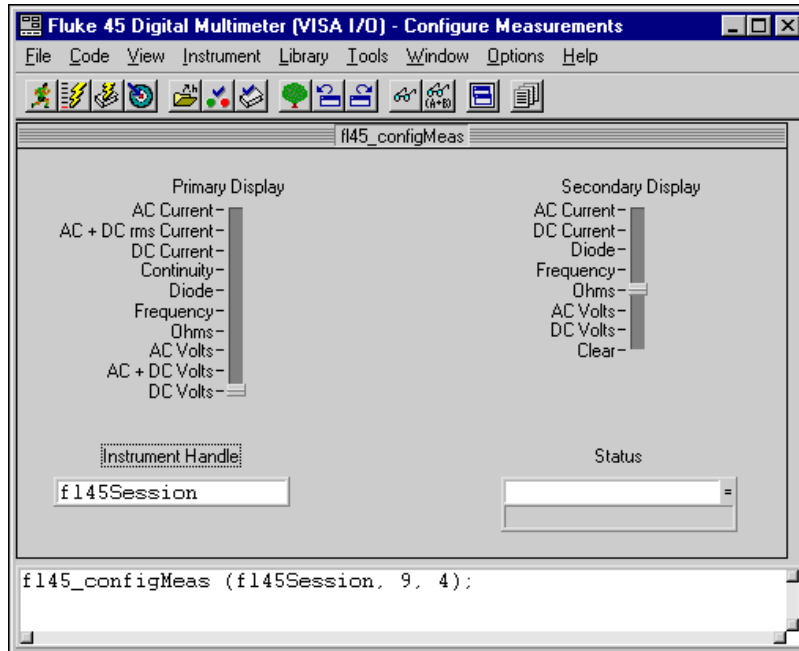
You can access a function panel for an instrument driver from the **Instrument** menu or for a library from the **Library** menu. After you select an instrument or library name, choose a panel by making selections from the Select Function Panel dialog box.

Functions are grouped in a multilevel structure called a function tree. This structure groups functions into various classes according to the operation they perform to make finding individual functions easier. When the Select Function Panel dialog box contains class names, you can select a class name to view the next level of the function tree until you reach a list of Function Panel windows.

In certain cases, it is convenient to access instrument or library module function panels in a linear fashion, that is, by moving through the list of functions without using the tree structure. The Select Function Panel dialog box has a **Flatten** option that replaces the function class hierarchy with a list of all function panels at or below the current level. Once you have selected a function panel, the function panel commands **Previous Panel**, **Next Panel**, **First Panel**, and **Last Panel** give you access to function panels in this linear manner. Refer to the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter for more information about using these commands.

You can access function panels in other ways as well. For instance, you might want to return to a panel you recently used or recall a panel from the text of a function call in a Source window. The commands that give you access to panels in these and other ways are in the **View** menu of the Source window. A similar set of commands exist in the **View** menu of the Function Panel window. Refer to the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter and the [View Menu](#) section in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more information on using these commands.

Figure 6-1 shows the Configure Measurements Function Panel window for a Fluke 45 Digital Multimeter. It contains a function panel that corresponds to the `fl45_configMeas` function. You can use the controls on the function panels to specify parameters for the functions. The generated code box at the bottom of the window displays the function calls these function panels generate.



**Figure 6-1.** Instrument Driver Function Panel Window

## Multiple Function Panels in a Window

The Function Panel window can contain more than one function panel. Each function panel corresponds to one function, with the controls on that function panel manipulating the parameters to that function call. You can disable individual functions by selecting **Edit»Edit Function** and selecting the **Function Disabled** checkbox from the dialog box. Disabled function calls do not appear in the generated code box, therefore, you cannot execute or insert them into a Source window.

## Generated Code Box

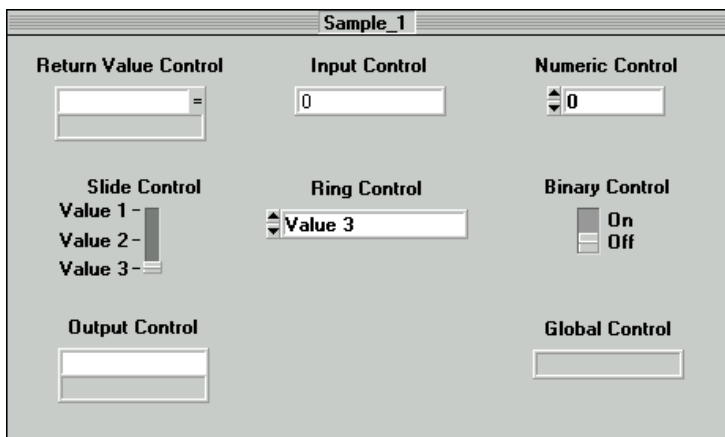
The generated code box at the bottom of the Function Panel window displays the code the function panels produce when you manipulate the panel controls. The generated code box displays up to three lines of code at a time and is scrollable.

## Toolbars in LabWindows/CVI

The LabWindows/CVI toolbar appears within function panels, in the Function Panel Editor window, and in Source windows. It gives you quick access to common commands, such as **File»Open** and **File»Save**. You can configure the toolbar to meet your needs or choose not to display it. Refer to the [Toolbars in LabWindows/CVI](#) section in Chapter 5, [Source and Interactive Execution Windows](#), for a full description of toolbar use and configuration.

## Function Panel Controls

Function panel controls specify parameters in a function call. Figure 6-2 illustrates the eight types of function panel controls.



**Figure 6-2.** Function Panel Controls

When you open a function panel, input from the keyboard or mouse affects the currently selected control. Pressing the <Tab> key selects the next control. Pressing <Shift-Tab> selects the previous control. To select a control with the mouse, click on the control. Pressing <Page Up> or <Page Down> moves the input focus across multiple function panels in one window. Pressing <Ctrl-Page Up> and <Ctrl-Page Down> moves from one Function panel window to the next.

The way you specify parameter values differs for each type of control. The following sections contain instructions for specifying parameters for each type of control.

## Specifying a Return Value Control Parameter

A return value control displays a value that a function returns as a return value rather than as a formal parameter.

For scalar return values, you can leave the control blank. LabWindows/CVI generates a temporary variable when you run the function panel.

If you type a variable name into a return control, you must define the variable statically in the Interactive Execution window or define it elsewhere and declare it as `extern` in the Interactive Execution window before you execute the function. You can select **Code»Declare Variable** to define the variables in the Interactive Execution window. You can select **Code»Select Variable** to choose a variable or expression that you have used before. The type of value you enter must agree with the data type of the control. To determine the data type of the control, press <F1> or right-click on the control to view the Help window. After executing the function, the return value control displays the value for the variable beneath the variable name.

## Specifying an Input Control Parameter

An input control accepts a value you type in from the keyboard. An input control can have a default value associated with it. This value appears in the control when the panel first appears.

To specify a parameter for an input control, select the control and type in a variable name, numeric value, or valid expression. Before executing a Function panel window, any names you type into input controls must be defined statically in the Interactive Execution window or defined elsewhere and declared as `extern` in the Interactive Execution window. You can select **Code»Declare Variable** to define variables in the Interactive Execution window for use in the function panels. You can select **Code»Select Variable** to select a variable or expression that you have used before. The type of value you enter, whether it is a constant, expression, simple variable, or array, must agree with the data type of the control. To determine the data type of the control, press <F1> or right-click on the control to view the Help window.

## Specifying a Numeric Control Parameter

A numeric control behaves like an input control except that it accepts numeric values only.

If you want to type a variable name into a numeric control, select **Options»Toggle Control Style**.

## Specifying a Slide Control Parameter

With a slide control you select one item from a list of options. The position of the slider, the cross-bar on the slide control, determines the value LabWindows/CVI places in the function call.

To move the slider with the keyboard, press the up or down arrow key. As you move the slider, the corresponding argument in the function call in the generated code box changes. The <Home> and <End> keys move you to the top and bottom of the slide control, respectively. To move the slider with the mouse, click on the slider and drag it up and down or just click on the position you want.

If you want to type a variable name into a slide control, select **Options»Toggle Control Style**.

## Specifying a Ring Control Parameter

The ring control represents a range of values, much like the slide control. A ring control displays only a single item from a list instead of displaying the whole list at once as the slide control does. The item you select determines the value LabWindows/CVI places in the function call.

To select an item from a ring control with the keyboard, use the up and down arrow keys to scroll through the list. Press the space bar to display the entire list of items for the selected ring control. To select an item from a ring control with the mouse, click on the up or down arrow of the ring control until the value you want appears or click on the display field of the control and select the value you want directly from the list that appears.

If you want to type a variable name into a ring control, select **Options»Toggle Control Style**.

## Specifying a Binary Control Parameter

The binary control is a limited version of the slide control that has only two positions.

To select the position of the binary control, press the up or down arrow key or the <Home> or <End> key. To change the binary control with the mouse, click on the position you want.

If you want to type a variable name into a binary control, select **Options»Toggle Control Style**.

## Specifying an Output Control Parameter

The *output control* displays a value that the function you execute determines.

To specify a parameter for an output control, select the control and type in the desired variable name. An output control parameter must be an array name or the address of a scalar or structure. For non-array parameters, you can leave an output control blank.

LabWindows/CVI generates a temporary variable when you run the function panel. If the output control requires an array, or if you type a variable name into the output control, the variable must be defined statically in the Interactive Execution window or defined elsewhere and declared as `extern` in the Interactive Execution window before executing the function. You can use the **Declare Variable** command from the **Code** menu to define a variable in the Interactive Execution window. You can use the **Select Variable** command from the **Code** menu to select a variable or expression that you have used before.

To view the value at an output control parameter after LabWindows/CVI executes the function, double-click on the lower half of the output control to open the Variables window.

## Using a Global Control

A *global control* displays the contents of global variables in a library function. You can use global controls to monitor global variables the function does not specifically return as results. These are read-only controls. You cannot alter the content, and the controls do not contribute parameters to the generated code.

## Common Control Function Panel

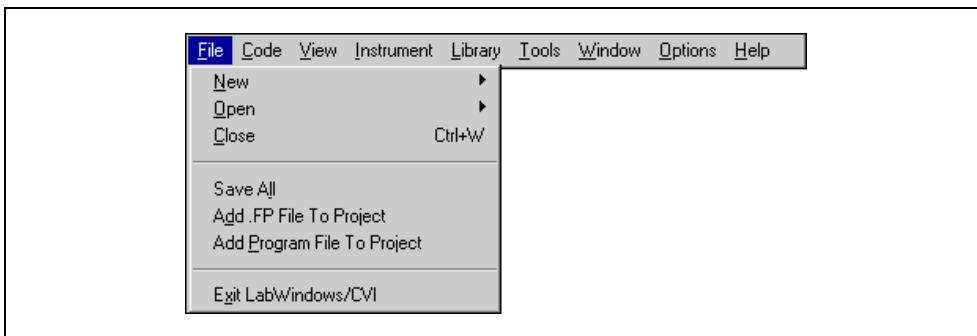
A Function Panel window can contain a special function panel called a *Common Control* function panel. The  $n$  controls on a Common Control function panel specify the first  $n$  parameters of all functions in the Function Panel window.

## Convenient Viewing of Function Panel Variables

Select **View Variable Value** or **Add Watch Expression** from the **Code** menu to view the contents of arrays, structures, and global variables that exist in function panel controls. Depending on the type of the variable or expression, the Variables, Array Display, String Display, or Watch window appears with the variable or expression highlighted.

## File Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **File** menu for Function Panel windows, as shown in Figure 6-3.



**Figure 6-3.** Function Panel Window File Menu

### New

The **New** command works the same way as the **New** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for more information on the **New** command.

### Open

The **Open** command works the same way as the **Open** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for more information on the **Open** command.

### Close

The **Close** command closes the active Function Panel window.

### Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

### Add .FP File to Project

The **Add .FP File to Project** command adds the `.fp` file of the current Function Panel window to the project list.



## Add Program File to Project

The **Add Program File to Project** command adds the instrument driver program file associated with the .fp file of the current Function Panel window to the project list.

## Most Recently Closed Files

For your reference, two lists appear in the **File** menu.

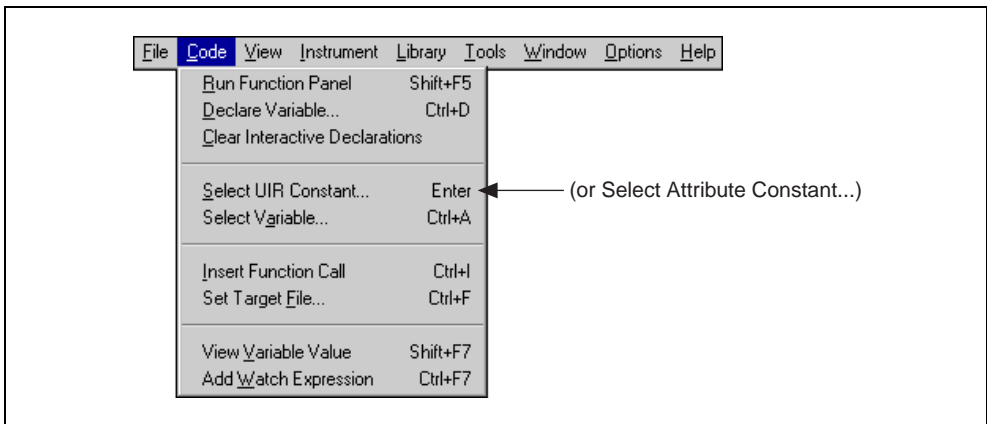
- A list of the four most recently closed files, other than project files
- A list of the four most recently closed project files

## Exit LabWindows/CVI

The **Exit LabWindows/CVI** command closes the current LabWindows/CVI session. If you have modified any open files since the last save or if any windows contain unnamed files, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save them to disk.

## Code Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **Code** menu for Function Panel windows, as shown in Figure 6-4.



**Figure 6-4.** Code Menu

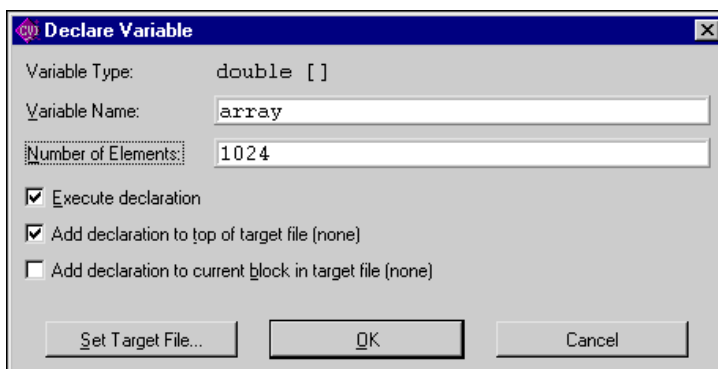
## Run Function Panel

Selecting the **Run Function Panel** command executes the code in the generated code box. When you select **Run Function Panel**, the following actions take place.

- LabWindows/CVI automatically inserts the header file for the library or instrument driver into the Interactive Execution window if it is not already there.
- LabWindows/CVI generates temporary variables for blank scalar output controls.
- LabWindows/CVI copies the generated function(s) to the Interactive Execution window.
- LabWindows/CVI executes the code. While executing, the <<**Running**>> menu appears in the upper left corner of the function panel menu bar.
- LabWindows/CVI displays the new values for output, return values, and global variable controls.

## Declare Variable

Use **Declare Variable** to declare a variable to be placed in the currently active control on the function panel. When you select **Declare Variable**, a dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 6-5.



**Figure 6-5.** Declare Variable Dialog Box

The **Variable Type** indicates the data type associated with the currently active control on the panel. You can use more than one data type for some controls. In such cases, a ring control allows you to select the data type.

To declare a variable with the Declare Variable dialog box, enter the name of the variable you want to declare in the **Variable Name** text box. LabWindows/CVI automatically prefixes scalar output variables with an ampersand (&).

The **Number of Elements** box appears when the currently active control is for an array or a string. Enter the number of elements.

Select the action options you want. When you select the **Execute Declaration** option, LabWindows/CVI executes the variable declaration immediately in the Interactive Execution window.

When you select the **Add Declaration to Top of Target File (*filename*)** option, LabWindows/CVI inserts a copy of the declaration at the top of the file you select using the **Set Target File** button.

When you select the **Add Declaration to Current Block in Target File (*filename*)** option, LabWindows/CVI inserts a copy of the declaration at the beginning of the code block that contains your current position.

Click on the **Set Target File** button to set the destination file for the **Insert Function Call** command. **Set Target File** brings up a dialog box from which you can select from any open Source window or the Interactive Execution window.

Click on the **OK** button to declare the variable according to the options you have selected.

Click on the **Cancel** button to cancel the operation and remove the Declare Variable dialog box from the screen.

When you use the **Declare Variable** command, LabWindows/CVI always declares the variable using the static storage class, unless you select the **Add Declaration to Current Block in Target File** option.

In addition to generating the variable declaration, the **Declare Variable** command also places the variable name in the currently active control, overwriting the previous contents of the control.

If the currently active control already contains a syntactically correct variable name, it appears in the **Variable Name** text box when the Declare Variable dialog box first appears.

## Clear Interactive Declarations

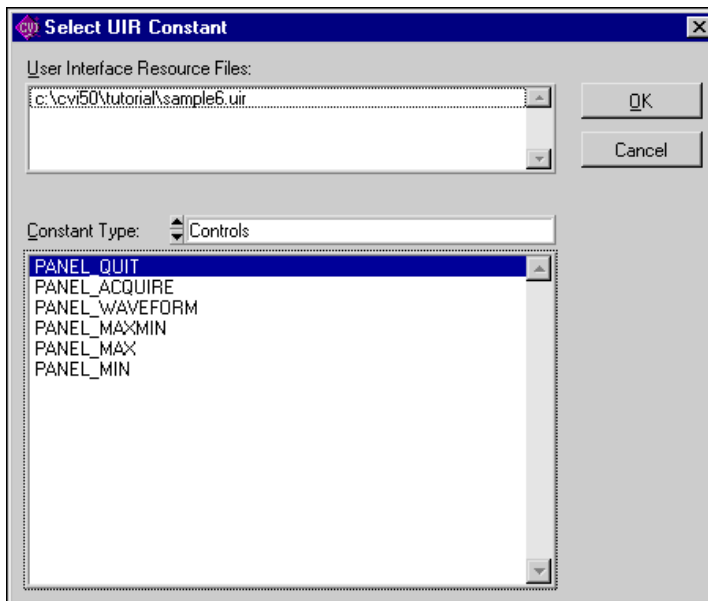
Variables declared in the Interactive Execution window remain in effect until you explicitly remove them. Because of this feature, you can use these same variables in succeeding executions of the Interactive Execution window, and different function panels can access the same variables.

The **Clear Interactive Declarations** command removes the variables without deleting the contents of the Interactive Execution window.

## Select UIR Constant

The **Select UIR Constant** command can help you use the function panels for the User Interface Library. The command lets you select from the list of constant names associated with the objects in your `.uir` files.

When you specify a parameter for an input control that can accept a panel resource ID, control ID, menu bar resource ID, menu ID, or menu item ID, use **Select UIR Constant** to open the Select UIR Constant dialog box, as shown in Figure 6-6.



**Figure 6-6.** Select UIR Constant Dialog Box

The list box at the top of the dialog box lists all the `.uir` files open or in the project. Only constants from the currently selected `.uir` file appear in the list box at the bottom. Click on a file to select it.

The **Constant Type** ring control allows you to select which category of constant name to show.

When you click on the **OK** button, LabWindows/CVI copies the currently selected constant name into the function panel control.



**Note** If you attempt to use **Select UIR Constant** on the Panel Handle and Menu Bar Handle controls that appear on most User Interface Library function panels, an error message appears. These controls take the values returned from `LoadPanel` and `LoadMenuBar`, so an attempt to select `.uir` constants will fail.

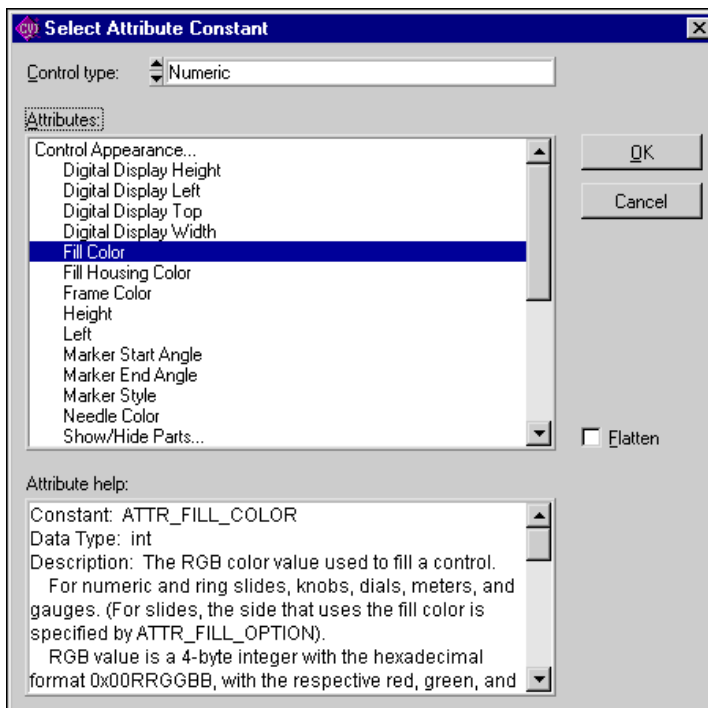
You can use **Select UIR Constant** in user-defined panels. That way, the command is available to function panels for user libraries that you build on top of the User Interface Library.

## Select Attribute Constant

In certain cases, the **Select Attribute Constant** command replaces the **Select UIR Constant** command in the **Code** menu. This occurs in panels for functions that set or get attribute values. The User Interface Library, the VISA Library, and IVI instrument drivers have such functions. Examples are `GetCtrlAttribute`, `SetCtrlAttribute`, `GetPanelAttribute`, and `SetPanelAttribute` in the User Interface Library. The panels for these functions each contain an Attribute ring control and a corresponding Value input control. When either of these two controls are active, the **Select Attribute Constant** command appears in the **Code** menu. The action of the command differs based on whether the Attribute or Value control is active.

## Selecting Constants in an Attribute Control

When you execute the command on an Attribute ring control, the Select Attribute Constant dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 6-7.



**Figure 6-7.** Select Attribute Constant Dialog Box

The Attributes list box displays the attributes you can use with the function. The attributes are organized under classes. A trailing ellipsis (...) denotes a class. To see a list of all the attributes without the classes and in alphabetical order, select the Flatten option. The name of the attribute is dim if it does not allow the type of access that the function performs. For example, read only attributes for user interface controls appear dim when you use this dialog box from the function panel for `SetCtrlAttribute`.

The Control Type ring appears only when you use this dialog box from a User Interface Library function panel. It allows you to restrict the list of attributes to those applicable to a particular control type.

The Data Type ring appears when you use this dialog box from a function panel for a typesafe attribute function. The IVI Library and IVI instrument drivers have typesafe attribute functions, such as `Ivi_SetAttributeViInt32`. The Data Type ring allows you to restrict the list of attributes to those that have the same data type as the typesafe function. If you choose to see all attributes, the data type of each attribute appears on the right-hand side of the list box. The data type is dim if it is not the same as the data type of the typesafe function.

The **Attribute Help** text box displays help information for the currently selected attribute.

Double-click on an attribute or click on **OK** to change the function panel ring control to that attribute. If you select an attribute that appears dim in the list box, an error message appears informing you that the attribute does not allow the type of access the function requires. If you select an attribute for which the data type appears dim in the list box, a dialog box appears giving you the option to change to the function panel for the typesafe function that you can use with that attribute.

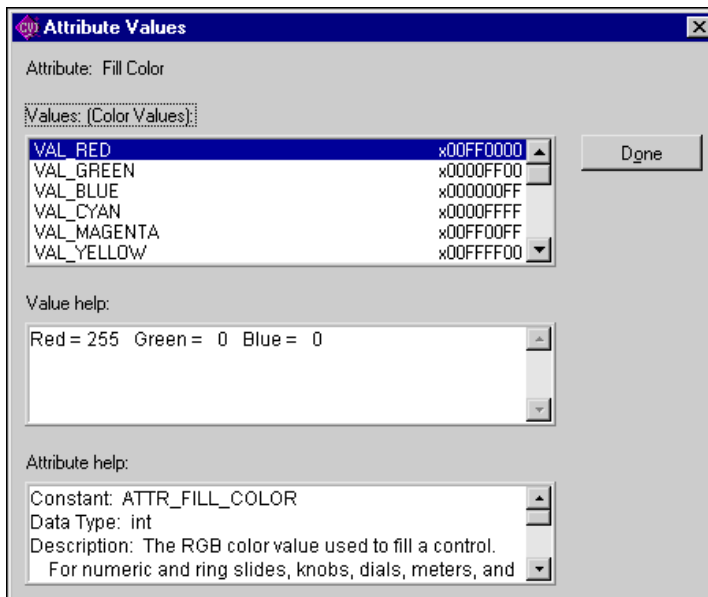
Notice that when you attempt to operate the Attribute ring control in the function panel as a normal ring control, the same dialog box appears in place of the pop-up menu that normally appears on a ring control.

## Selecting Constants in a Value Control

The **Select UIR Constant** command has special behavior on the Attribute Value input and output controls in panels for functions such as `GetCtrlAttribute`, `SetCtrlAttribute`, `GetPanelAttribute`, and `SetPanelAttribute`.

When you execute the **Select Attribute Constant** command on an Attribute Value control, the behavior depends on the attribute currently selected in the Attribute ring control on the same function panel.

If you set the Attribute ring control to an attribute for which there is no small, discrete set of values, a dialog box appears repeating the help information for the attribute. If, on the other hand, there is a small, discrete set of values, the Select Attribute Value dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 6-8.



**Figure 6-8.** Select Attribute Value Dialog Box

When the values that appear in the Values list box are constant names, the actual values appear on the right-hand side of the list box.

If the Attribute Value control is an input control, such as on `SetCtrlAttribute` or `SetPanelAttribute`, double-click on an entry in the Values list to copy it into the Attribute Value control on the function panel.

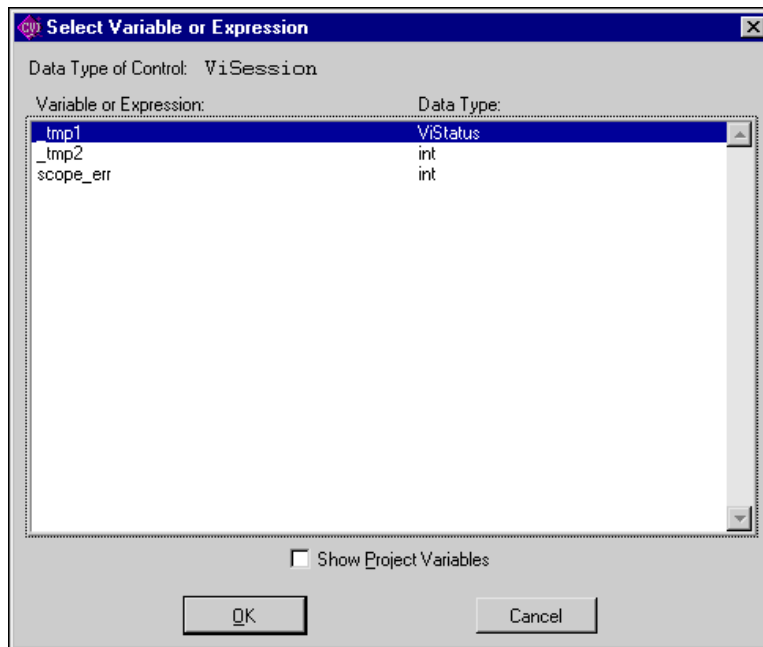
If the Attribute Value control is an output control, such as on `GetCtrlAttribute` or `GetPanelAttribute`, and a value appears in the bottom half of the control because you executed the function panel, LabWindows/CVI selects, when possible, the value in the Values list that corresponds to the value shown in the bottom half of the output control. An arrow symbol appears to the left of the list box entry that contains that value.



## Select Variable

The **Select Variable** command gives you a list of previously used variables or expressions that have data types that are compatible with the currently active function panel control. LabWindows/CVI enables the command only when the currently active function panel control is one that accepts text entry. When you select a variable or expression from the list, LabWindows/CVI copies it into the function panel control. The **Select Variable** command can significantly reduce the amount of keyboard entry necessary when using function panels.

When you execute the **Select Variable** command, the Select Variable or Expression dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 6-9.



**Figure 6-9.** Select Variable or Expression Dialog Box

- **Data Type of Control**—Indicates the data type of the currently active function panel control.
- **Variable or Expression**—Contains the variables and expressions that have data types compatible with the data type of the control.
- **Data Type**—Indicates the data type of each variable and expression.
- **Show Project Variables**—Adds to the list box global variables, static and non-static, defined in project files that have been successfully compiled.

- **OK**—Dismisses the dialog box and copies the variable or expression into the function panel control. It might add a leading ampersand (&) when the function panel control is an output control. It might add one or more leading asterisks (\*) or a trailing array indexation ([ 0]) when necessary to correctly match the data type of the control.
- **Cancel**—Cancels the operation.

## What is Included in a List Box

**Select Variable** considers the following items for inclusion in the list box:

- Variables you declare in the Interactive Execution window
- Variables you declare using the **Declare Variable** command in a function panel
- Variables or expressions used in function panels you execute
- Variables or expressions used in function panels from which you insert code into a Source window
- User Interface panel handle variables that CodeBuilder adds to a Source window
- Variables declared as global or static global in a project file that has been successfully compiled but only if the **Show Project Variables** option is enabled in the dialog box

LabWindows/CVI removes some or all these items from memory when you unload the current project or when you select **Build»Clear Interactive Declarations**.

## Data Type Compatibility

Compatibility between data types is a more complex issue than you might expect. LabWindows/CVI uses a number of heuristics. The heuristics differ based on whether the variable is known to the compiler.

Variables known to the compiler include variables you declare in the Interactive Execution window and variables you declare in project files that you have successfully compiled. For such variables, LabWindows/CVI uses the following factors to determine whether the variable is type-compatible with a function panel control.

- LabWindows/CVI reduces data types you declare with the `typedef` keyword to their most intrinsic type, as long as the `typedef` is known to the compiler. For example, assume the compiler has processed the following declarations.

```
typedef int    typeA;
typedef int    typeB;
typedef typeB typeC;
```

A variable of type `typeA` is an exact match for a function panel control that has type `typeC`.

- LabWindows/CVI considers all numeric types compatible with each other except that floating-point variables or expressions are not considered compatible with integer function panel controls.
- LabWindows/CVI considers types that have the same base type but differ in levels of indirection to be compatible. For example, the following are all compatible:

```
int
int *
int **
int [ ]
```

To be included in the list box, an expression or a variable name the compiler does not know must match exactly the data type of the function panel control. An example of a variable name not known to the compiler is one used in a function panel from which you insert code into a Source window.



**Note** An expression or variable name the compiler does not know can be associated with multiple data types. For instance, you might use the same variable name in an `int` control and a `double` control. If the variable is not known to the compiler, LabWindows/CVI has no way of knowing the true data type of the variable name. Thus, you might see the variable name associated with different data types.

## Sorting List Box Entries

LabWindows/CVI first sorts the entries in the list box by data type. The most compatible data types appear first. The exception is that some function panel controls use *meta* data types, such as `numeric array`, `any array`, or `any type`. Such controls are equally compatible with a wide range of data types. In this case, the order of data types does not indicate differing degrees of compatibility.

Within each data type, LabWindows/CVI sorts the entries alphabetically by the variable/expression text.

## Insert Function Call

The **Insert Function Call** command copies the generated code to the selected window at the current location of the keyboard cursor. You can copy code to any open Source window or to the Interactive Execution window. You determine the destination window by selecting **Code>Set Target File**.

If the destination window contains selected text, LabWindows/CVI displays a dialog box that gives you the option of replacing the selected text or inserting the generated code after the selected text. Refer to the discussion of the **Recall Function Panel** command in the *View Menu* section of Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more information.

## Set Target File

Use the **Set Target File** command to set the destination file for the **Insert Function Call** command. **Set Target File** brings up a dialog box from which you can select from any open Source window or the Interactive Execution window.

## View Variable Value

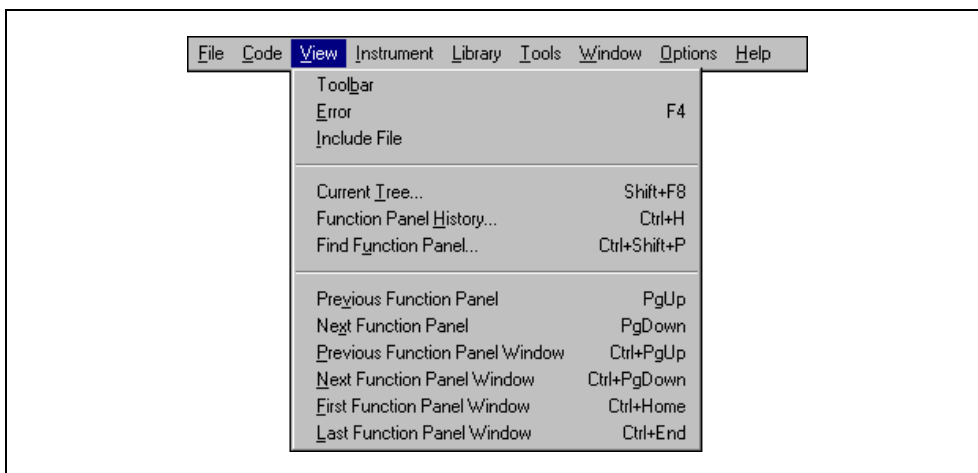
Use the **View Variable Value** command to view the contents of arrays, structures, and global variables that appear in a function panel. Highlight the variable that you want to see and select **View Variable Value**. Depending on the type of the variable, the Variables, Array Display, or String Display window appears with the variable highlighted.

## Add Watch Expression

Use the **Add Watch Expression** command to view the value of an expression that appears in a function panel. Highlight the expression you want to see and select **Add Watch Expression**. The Watch window appears with the expression highlighted.

## View Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **View** menu for Function Panel windows, as shown in Figure 6-10.



**Figure 6-10.** View Menu

## Toolbar

Use the **Toolbar** command to toggle between viewing or not viewing the Function Panel window toolbar.

## Error

If an error occurs during the execution of a function panel, you can use the **Error** command to toggle between the error message and the code in the generated code box.

## Include File

The **Include File** command displays the include file associated with the library or instrument driver in a Source window. The include file contains all the function prototypes for the library or instrument driver.

## Current Tree

The **Current Tree** command displays the Select Function Panel dialog box for the most recently used function panel, making it easy for you to return to the location of the current panel in the function tree.

## Function Panel History

The **Function Panel History** command displays a scrollable list of the function panels you have used during the current LabWindows/CVI session. You can display function panels from the list as new windows, or you can overwrite the current Function Panel window.

## Find Function Panel

When you select the **Find Function Panel** command, a dialog box appears in which you can enter the name of a function. You can enter just a substring, and the **Find Function Panel** command finds all functions that contain that substring anywhere in their names. For instance, if you enter `ctrl` and click on **OK**, a dialog box appears with a list of functions including `NewCtrl`, `SetCtrlVal`, `GetCtrlVal`, and so on.

You can use a regular expression as your search string. Refer to Table 5-1, *Regular Expression Characters*, in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for a list of regular expression characters.

If a function panel exists for the function, LabWindows/CVI displays the panel. If two or more function panels exist for the function, LabWindows/CVI displays a list of the function panels.

The shortcut key for **Find Function Panel** is <Ctrl-Shift-P>.

## Previous Function Panel

The **Previous Function Panel** command displays the previous function panel in the current Function Panel window.

## Next Function Panel

The **Next Function Panel** command displays the next function panel in the current Function Panel window.

## Previous Function Panel Window

The **Previous Function Panel Window** command opens the Function Panel window that precedes the current Function Panel window in the same Function Tree.

## Next Function Panel Window

The **Next Function Panel Window** command opens the Function Panel window that follows the current Function Panel window in the same Function Tree.

The rotation order for the Function Tree is circular. If the first Function Panel window in the tree is visible on the screen, selecting **Previous Function Panel Window** displays the last Function Panel window in the tree. If the last Function Panel window in the tree is visible, selecting **Next Function Panel Window** displays the first Function Panel window in the tree.

## First Function Panel Window

The **First Function Panel Window** command displays the first Function Panel window in the Function Tree.

## Last Function Panel Window

The **Last Function Panel Window** command displays the last Function Panel window in the Function Tree.

## Instrument Menu

---

The **Instrument** menu in Function Panel windows works the same way as the **Instrument** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Instrument Menu](#) and [Using Instrument Drivers](#) sections in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for command descriptions.

## Library Menu

The **Library** menu for Function Panel windows behaves the same way as the **Library** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Library Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for command descriptions.

## Tools Menu

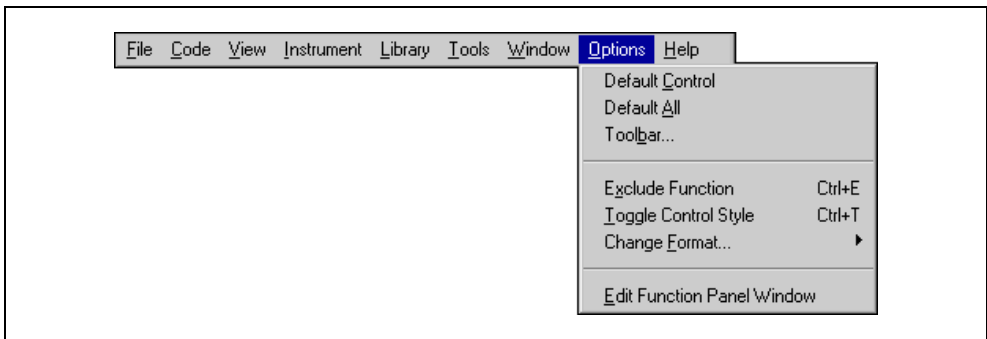
The **Tools** menu for Function Panel windows behaves the same way as the **Tools** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Tools Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for command descriptions.

## Window Menu

The **Window** menu in Function Panel windows behaves the same way as the **Window** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Window Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for command descriptions.

## Options Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **Options** menu for Function Panel windows, as shown in Figure 6-11.



**Figure 6-11.** Options Menu

## Default Control

**Default Control** resets a control to its default value and configuration.

## Default All

**Default All** resets all the controls on the current Function Panel window to their default values and configurations.

## Toolbar

Use the **Toolbar** command to select which icons appear in the Function Panel window toolbar. Refer to the *Toolbars in LabWindows/CVI* section in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more details on editing the toolbar.

## Exclude Function

The **Exclude Function** command disables the current function panel so that the function call does not appear in the generated code box and is not in effect when you select **Code»Run** or **Insert**.

## Toggle Control Style

Slide, binary, and ring controls insert a number into a function call in the generated code box. The value of this number depends on the item you select in the control. You can override the configured values of these controls by using the **Toggle Control Style** command.

**Toggle Control Style** replaces a slide, binary, or ring control with an input control. You can use this input control to enter a variable name, constant, or expression. This entry appears in the generated code box in the same position as the parameter that the original control produced.

The variable name or constant that you enter must match the type specified for the control, such as short, long, single-precision, double-precision, string, and so on. Otherwise, a syntax error occurs when you execute the function.

## Change Format

**Change Format** lets you change the numeric format for scalar controls. The list of formats depends on the data type associated with the control.

You can display short and long data types in decimal, hexadecimal, octal, or ASCII form. You can display real numbers in floating-point or scientific format.



## Edit Function Panel Window

The **Edit Function Panel Window** command puts the Function Panel window in edit mode. Refer to Chapter 3, *The Function Panel Editor*, in the *LabWindows/CVI Instrument Driver Developers Guide*, for information about editing instrument function panels.



**Note** You cannot edit the function panels of the LabWindows/CVI libraries or user libraries.

## Help Menu

---

The **Help** menu for Function Panel windows works the same way as the **Help** menu in the Project window except that it also includes **Control** and **Function** help. Refer to the [Help Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for information on the **Help** menu.

### Control

The **Control** command displays help information about the currently highlighted control. To select control help with the mouse, right-click anywhere on the control you want help with.

### Function

The **Function** command displays general information about the function the current Function Panel generates. To select function help with the mouse, right-click on the Function Panel you want help with.

---

# Variables and Watch Windows

This chapter describes the Variables and Watch windows. You use these windows to inspect and modify the values of program variables.

You can invoke these windows when no program is running or when a program is suspended at a breakpoint.

The Variables window shows the names and types of all variables, including arrays and strings. The current values of numeric scalars, values and contents of pointers, and string contents appear in the Variables window.



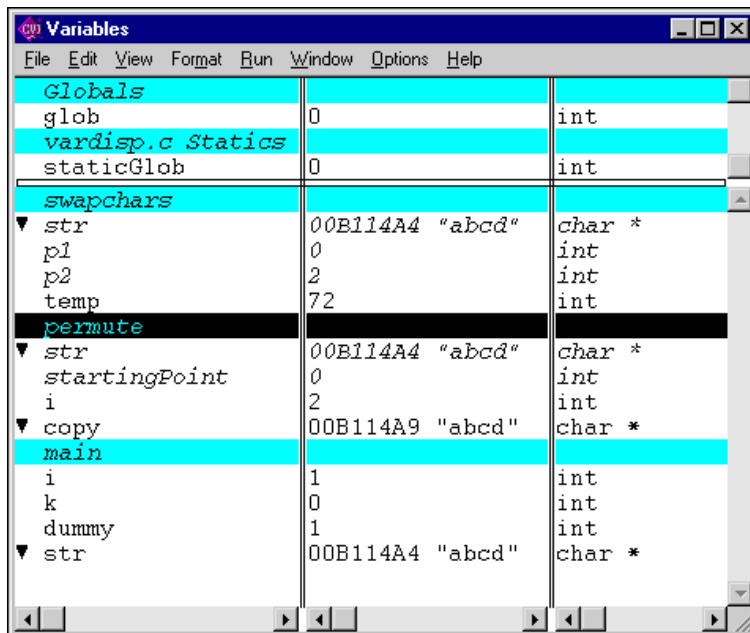
**Note** When strings appear in ASCII format, there is no visual distinction between a space (ASCII 32) and a NUL byte (ASCII 0). You can see the difference by displaying the string in decimal format.

## Variables Window

---

To view the Variables window, select **Window»Variables** in the active LabWindows/CVI window. You also can invoke the Variables window for the currently highlighted variable from a Source or Function Panel window with the **Run»View Variable Value** command in the

Source window or the **Code»View Variable Value** command in the Function Panel window. An example of the Variables window appears in Figure 7-1.



**Figure 7-1.** Variables Window

The Variables window shows all currently defined variables in LabWindows/CVI. LabWindows/CVI updates variables in this window at each breakpoint. The vertical bars separate the window into three scrollable fields: name, value, and variable type. You can change the width of the fields by dragging the vertical bars with the mouse. The window is also divided into two horizontal sections: the Global subwindow and the function subwindow.

The Global subwindow displays the following variables:

- Project globals that include all global variables not declared as `static`
- Interactive Execution window variables declared in the Interactive Execution window
- Global variables declared as `static`

The function subwindow displays function parameters and local variables from currently active functions. The variable list for each function appears in a different section. For any given function, the Variables window lists formal parameters first followed by local variables. Formal parameters appear in italics.

The following icons appear to the left of certain variables.

- ▼ The variable on this line is the starting pointer to a block of defined data such as an array, string, or structure. Click on this icon or select **View»Expand Variable** to expand the variable so that you can see each element or member. For more information, refer to the [Expand Variable](#) discussion in the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter.
- The variable on this line is the starting pointer to a block of defined data that appears in expanded form. Click on this icon or select **View»Close Variable** to close the variable so that you see only the starting pointer. For more information, refer to the [Expand Variable](#) discussion in the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter.
- The variable on this line is a member of a structure that is a parent pointer to another structure of the same type. Click on this icon or select **View»Follow Pointer Chain** to replace the current structure with the child structure that the pointer references. For more information, refer to the [Follow Pointer Chain](#) discussion in the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter.
- ⬅ The variable on this line is a child structure in a chain. The pointer to its parent structure does not appear. Click on this icon or select **View»Retrace Pointer Chain** to replace the current structure with its parent. For more information, refer to the [Retrace Pointer Chain](#) discussion in the [View Menu](#) section later in this chapter.

## Watch Window

The Watch window is similar in nature to the Variables window except that you can select your own set of variables and expressions to view in the Watch window. By default, LabWindows/CVI updates variables and expressions in the Watch window at each breakpoint, but you also can set them to update continuously and cause a breakpoint when their values change. To activate the Watch window, select **Window»Watch** in the active LabWindows/CVI window. Figure 7-2 shows an example of the Watch window.

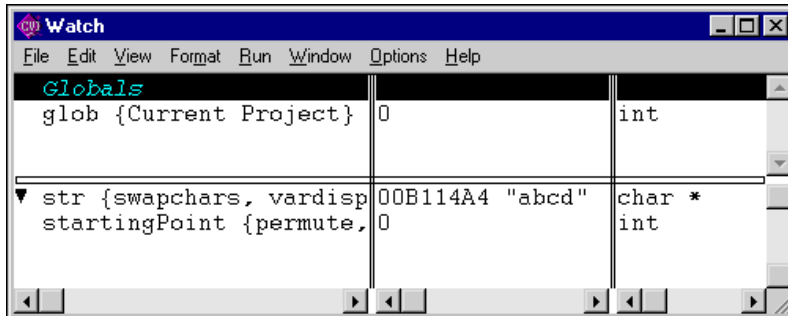


Figure 7-2. Watch Window

Select Watch window variables from the Variables window using the **Options»Add Watch Expression** command. The **Add Watch Expression** command opens the dialog box shown in Figure 7-3.

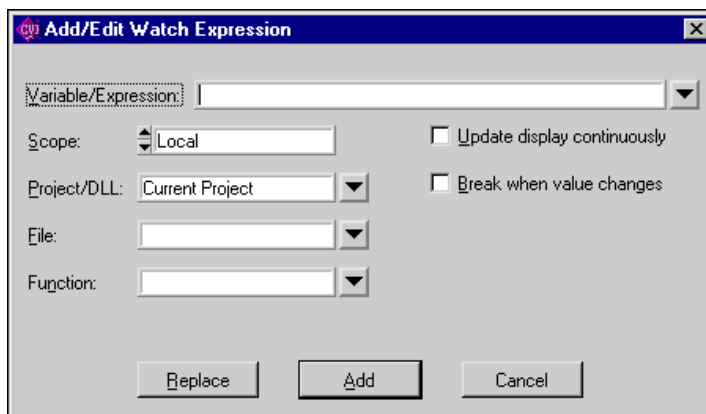


Figure 7-3. Add/Edit Watch Expression Dialog Box

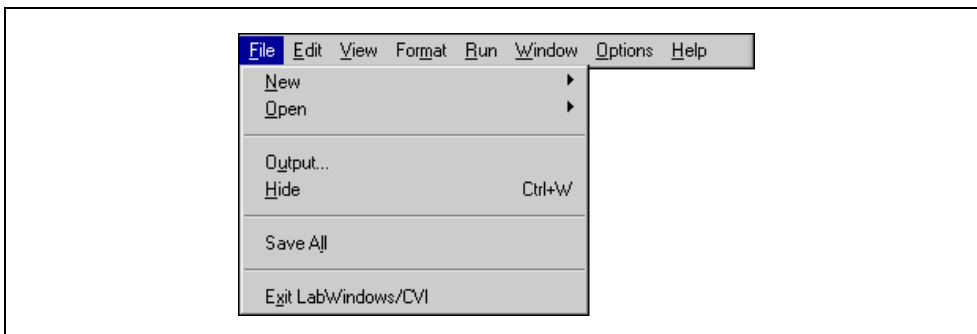
The Add/Edit Watch Expression dialog box has the following options:

- **Variable/Expression**—Contains the variable or expression to place in the Watch window.
- **Scope**—Corresponds to whether the variable or expression variables are global to the project, global to a file, local to a function, or global to the Interactive Execution window.
- **Executable/DLL**—Indicates the executable or DLL to which the watch expression applies. The default value for the control is Current Project. When you start debugging a project, LabWindows/CVI changes Current Project to the name of the target executable or DLL for the current project. If you want the watch expression to apply to a DLL that is not the target of the current project, you must supply the name of the DLL. Enter the filename and extension, without a directory path, as in `mydll.dll`. The menu ring to the right of the control contains the names of all DLLs currently loaded. To set a watch expression for a DLL, it is easiest to first set a breakpoint in a DLL source file. Once the DLL has been loaded and program execution suspends, select the DLL name from the menu ring.
- **File**—Name of the file that defines the variable or expression variables if they are global to a file or local to a function.
- **Function**—Name of the function that defines the variable or expression variables if they are local to a function.
- **Update Display Continuously**—Causes the variable or expression to be evaluated and updated on the Watch window between each statement in your program while the program is running.
- **Break When Value Changes**—Suspends the program when the value of the variable or expression changes.
- **Replace**—Replaces the previous attributes of the current variable or expression of the same name in the Watch window with the current attributes of the dialog box. **Replace** is available only when you invoke the dialog box from the Watch window.
- **Add**—Inserts the variable or expression into the Watch window.
- **Cancel**—Aborts the operation.

You can add watch expressions to the Watch window directly from a Source window or a Function Panel window. To add a watch expression from a Source window, highlight the expression and select **Run»Add Watch Expression**. To add a watch expression from a Function Panel window, highlight the expression and select **Code»Add Watch Expression**.

## File Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **File** menu for the Variables and Watch windows, as shown in Figure 7-4.



**Figure 7-4.** File Menu

### New

The **New** command operates the same way as the **New** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#) for more information on the **New** command.

### Open

The **Open** command operates the same way as the **Open** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#) for more information on the **Open** command.

### Output

The **Output** command writes the contents of the window to an ASCII file on disk. When you select **Output**, a dialog box appears prompting you to specify the name of the file.

### Hide

The **Hide** command visually closes a window while retaining the contents in memory.

### Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

## Most Recently Closed Files

For your reference, two lists appear in the **File** menu.

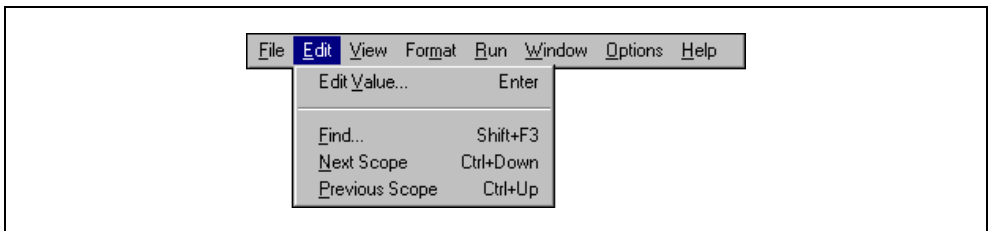
- A list of the four most recently closed files, other than project files
- A list of the four most recently closed project files

## Exit LabWindows/CVI

The **Exit LabWindows/CVI** command closes the current LabWindows/CVI session. If you have modified any open files since the last save or if any windows contain unnamed files, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save them to disk.

## Edit Menu for the Variables Window

This section contains a detailed description of the **Edit** menu for the Variables window. Figure 7-5 shows the **Edit** menu for the Variables window.



**Figure 7-5.** Edit Menu in the Variables Window

## Edit Value

You can change the value of a variable with the **Edit Value** command. You can invoke the **Edit Value** command with the mouse by double-clicking on the variable name. When the dialog box appears, type in the new value.

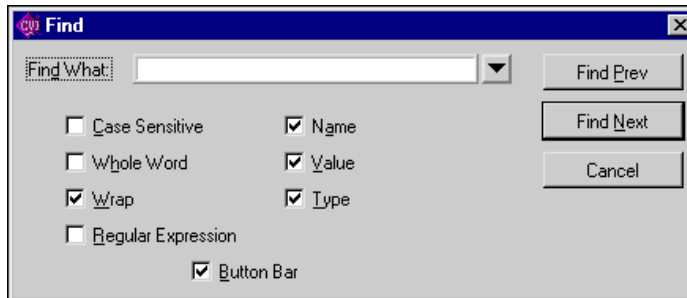
The value that you enter in the Edit dialog box depends on the type and display format of the variable, as the following instructions demonstrate:

- Edit integers and longs in the format in which they appear.
- Edit real numbers in either scientific or floating-point format, regardless of the display format.
- Edit individual array elements by expanding the array using the **View»Expand Variable** command.
- Edit individual bytes of a string by expanding the string using the **View»Expand Variable** command. The bytes appear in the integer format you specify in the **Format** menu.



## Find

The **Find** command invokes the dialog box shown in Figure 7-6.

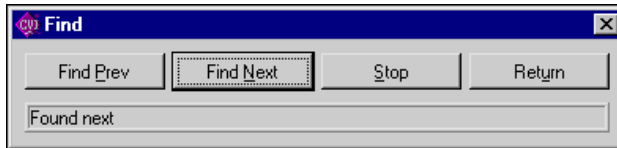


**Figure 7-6.** Find Dialog Box in the Variables Window

Enter the text you want to find in the **Find What** text box. If you select text on a single line before you execute the **Find** command, the selected text appears in the **Find What** text box. Otherwise, the text you last searched for appears in the box. You can access a history of selections for the **Find What** text box by clicking the mouse on the arrow to the right of the **Find What** text box or by using the up or down arrow keys on your keyboard.

- **Case Sensitive**—Finds only the instances of the specified text that match exactly. For example, if CHR is the specified text, the **Case Sensitive** option finds CHR but not Chr.
- **Whole Word**—Finds the specified text only when the characters that surround it are spaces, punctuation marks, or other characters not considered parts of a word. LabWindows/CVI treats the characters A through Z, a through z, 0 through 9, and underscore (\_) as parts of a word.
- **Wrap**—Specifies to continue searching from the beginning of the window once the end of the window has been reached.
- **Regular Expression**—If you select this option, LabWindows/CVI treats certain characters in the **Find What** text box as regular expression characters instead of literal characters. Table 5-1, *Regular Expression Characters*, in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, describes the regular expression characters.
- **Name**—Activate this option to include the variable name field of the Variables/Watch window in the search.
- **Value**—Activate this option to include the value field of the Variables/Watch window in the search.

- **Type**—Activate this option to include the variable type field of the Variables/Watch window in the search.
- **Button Bar**—Use this option to enable or disable the built-in dialog box for interactive searching, as shown in Figure 7-7.



**Figure 7-7.** Find Button Bar

**Find Prev** and **Find Next** search for the closest previous or next occurrence of the specified text. **Stop** terminates the search, leaving the highlight on the current line. **Return** terminates the search, moving the highlight to where you initiated the search.

The search hot keys remain active even if you disable the Button Bar. The search hot-keys in the Variables and Watch windows are the same as the search hot-keys in Source windows. Use the **Keyboard Help** command in the **Options** menu of a Source window for a list of the search hot-keys or refer to Appendix A, *Source Window Keyboard Commands*.

## Next Scope

In the function subwindow, **Next Scope** highlights the function that called the current function. In the Global subwindow, **Next Scope** highlights the next module. This command is not available in the Watch window.

## Previous Scope

In the function subwindow, **Previous Scope** highlights the function that the current function called directly. In the Global subwindow, **Previous Scope** highlights the previous module. This command is not available in the Watch window.

## Edit Menu for the Watch Window

This section contains a detailed description of the **Edit** menu for the Watch window. Figure 7-8 shows the **Edit** menu for the Watch window.

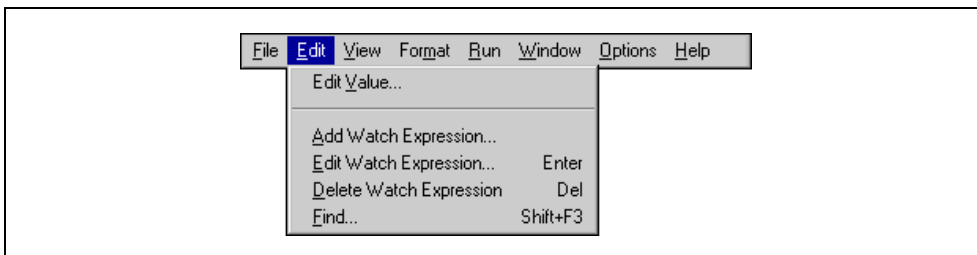


Figure 7-8. Edit Menu in the Watch Window

### Edit Value

The **Edit Value** command operates the same way as it does in the Variables window. Refer to the [Edit Menu for the Variables Window](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on this command.

### Add Watch Expression

**Add Watch Expression** invokes the Add/Edit Watch Expression dialog box. The [Watch Window](#) section earlier in this chapter explains this dialog box.

### Edit Watch Expression

**Edit Watch Expression** invokes the Add/Edit Watch Expression dialog box for the selected watch expression. The [Watch Window](#) section earlier in this chapter explains this dialog box.

### Delete Watch Expression

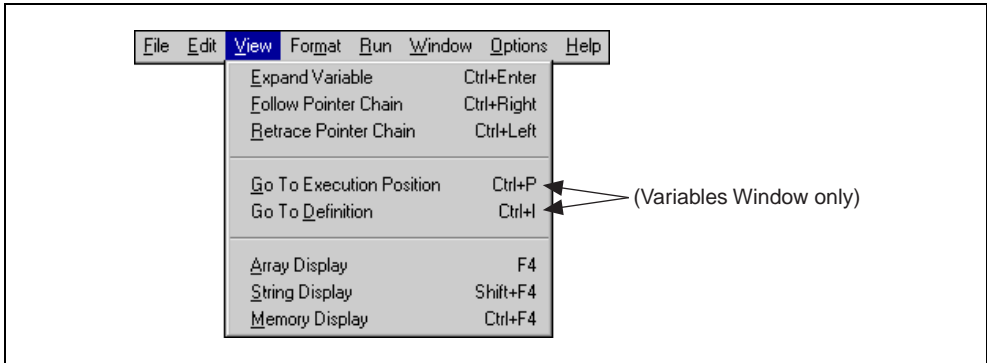
**Delete Watch Expression** removes the selected watch variable/expression from the Watch window. This command is not available in the Variables window.

### Find

The **Find** command operates the same as it does in the Variables window. Refer to [Edit Menu for the Variables Window](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information on this command.

# View Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **View** menu for the Variables and Watch windows. Figure 7-9 shows the **View** menu.

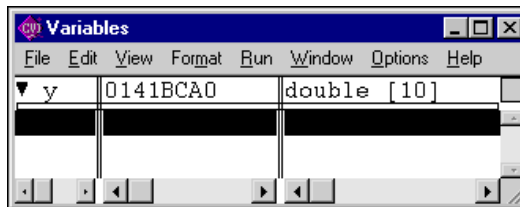


**Figure 7-9.** View Menu

To use one of these commands, select a particular array or string by clicking on it with the mouse or using the up and down arrow keys and then access the command from the **View** menu.

## Expand Variable

The Variables and Watch windows can display arrays, strings, and structures in closed form or expanded form. In closed form, you see only the name and address of the aggregate variable next to the triangle icon, as shown in Figure 7-10.



**Figure 7-10.** Closed Array in the Variables Window

In expanded form, the icon changes to a circle, and you see the individual elements and their values, as shown in Figure 7-11.

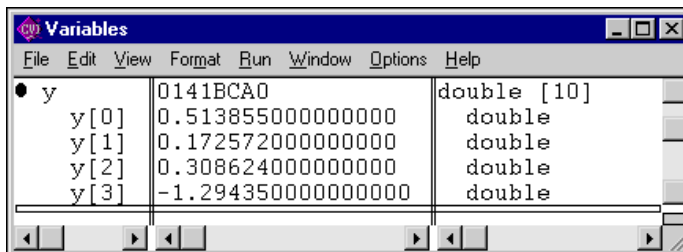


Figure 7-11. Expanded Array in the Variables Window

The **Expand Variable** command expands a currently closed aggregate variable so you can see its contents. Clicking on the triangle icon has the same effect as selecting **View»Expand Variable**.

## Close Variable

Refer to the [Expand Variable](#) earlier in this section for a discussion of expanded and closed variables.

The **View»Close Variable** command closes the currently expanded aggregate variable so you can see its name and starting address. Clicking on the circle icon has the same effect as selecting **View»Close Variable**.

## Follow Pointer Chain

Use **Follow Pointer Chain** to examine complex pointer-linked structures such as linked lists and trees. If a pointer is a member of a structure and points to a structure of the same type, **Follow Pointer Chain** replaces the current structure with the child structure that the pointer references. For example, in Figure 7-12, `hquework->begin->next` is a member of the structure `hquework->begin` and points to another structure type of `Item`.

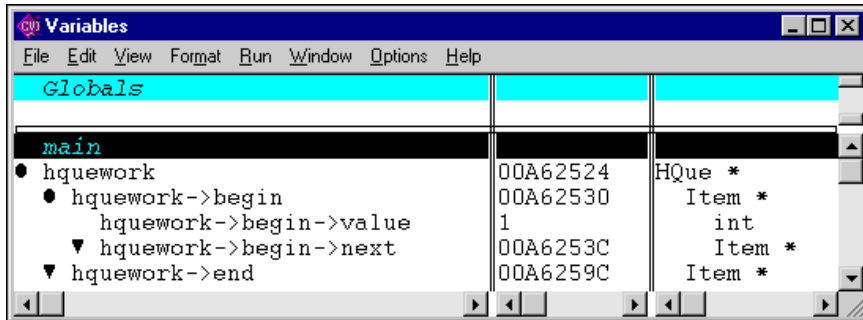


Figure 7-12. Parent Structure Pointer in a Chain

Clicking on the right arrow icon or selecting **Follow Pointer Chain** replaces the current structure with the child structure that the pointer references, as shown in Figure 7-13.

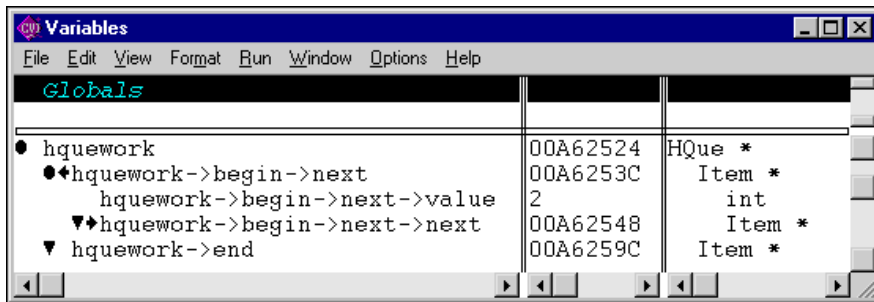


Figure 7-13. Child Structure Pointer in a Chain

## Retrace Pointer Chain

**Retrace Pointer Chain** replaces the current structure with its parent. Notice the presence of the left arrow icon after selecting **Follow Pointer Chain** in Figure 7-13. This indicates that the structure `hquework->begin->next` is a child structure in a chain. Clicking on the left arrow icon or selecting **Retrace Pointer Chain** causes the variable display to revert back to Figure 7-12.



**Note** **Retrace Pointer Chain** is valid only when you displayed the current structure with **Follow Pointer Chain**.

## Go To Execution Position (Variables Window)

This command is valid only in the Variables window. The **Go To Execution Position** command is available only when the currently highlighted item is a function name or the name of a formal parameter or local variable. The command opens the Source window that contains the call to the function in which your program suspended execution and highlights the function call. To execute the **Go To Execution Position** command, you can double-click on the function name or press <Ctrl-P>.

## Go To Definition (Variables Window)

This command is valid only in the Variables window. The **Go To Definition** command opens the Source window that contains the definition of the currently selected function or variable and highlights the definition.

## Array Display

The **Array Display** command invokes the Array Display window for the currently highlighted array. To invoke the Array Display window, double-click on an array variable or press <F4>. Refer to Chapter 8, *Array and String Display Windows*, for more information.

## String Display

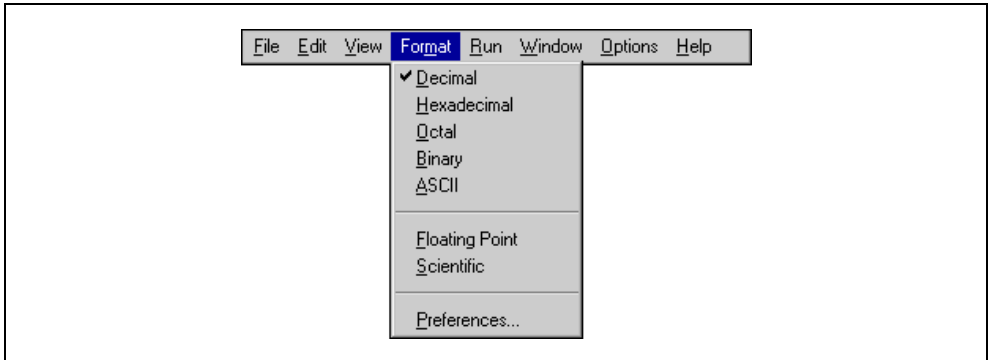
The **String Display** command invokes the String Display window for the currently highlighted string. To invoke the String Display window, double-click on a string variable or press <Shift-F4>. Refer to Chapter 8, *Array and String Display Windows*, for more information.

## Memory Display

The **Memory Display** command displays the currently highlighted item in the memory display. If the currently highlighted item is a pointer variable, the memory pointed to by the pointer is displayed in the memory display. If the currently highlighted item is not a pointer, the address of the highlighted variable is displayed in the memory display.

## Format Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **Format** menu for the Variables and Watch windows, as shown in Figure 7-14.



**Figure 7-14.** Format Menu

Use the commands in the **Format** menu to choose the format the Variables window uses to display numbers. You can change the format for an individual variable as well as the default formats for all variables. The first five items in the menu specify the available formats for displaying individual integers in the Variables and Watch windows. You can display integers in decimal, hexadecimal, octal, binary, or ASCII format. The next two items in the **Format** menu specify the formats available for displaying individual real numbers. Real numbers appear in either floating-point or scientific notation. The last item, **Preferences**, sets the default formats for all integers and all real numbers.

## Run Menu

The **Run** menu contains the following subset of the commands that appear in the **Run** menu of the Source window.

- **Debug**
- **Continue**
- **Step Over**
- **Step Into**
- **Finish Function**
- **Terminate Execution**



- **Break at First Statement**
- **Breakpoints**
- **Threads**

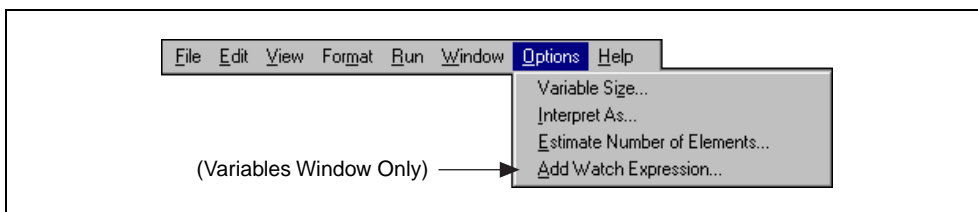
Refer to the [Run Menu](#) section in Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for descriptions of each of these commands.

## Window Menu

The **Window** menu in the Variables and Watch windows operates the same way as it does in the Project window. Refer to the [Window Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for command descriptions.

## Options Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **Options** menu for the Variables and Watch windows, as shown in Figure 7-15.



**Figure 7-15.** Options Menu

To use one of these commands, select a particular variable by clicking on it with the mouse or using the up and down arrow keys then access the command from the **Options** menu.

## Variable Size

The **Variable Size** command displays the number of bytes the variable consumes. If you declare the variable as a buffer, the variable size is the total size of the buffer. If you declare the variable as a pointer, the **Variable Size** command displays the number of bytes the pointer itself consumes and the number of bytes in the object that the pointer references. For example, if your code contains the following declaration:

```
static double y_array [4];
```

**Variable Size** displays a variable size of 32 bytes for `y_array`.

Assume your code defines `dblPtr` as follows:

```
static double *dblPtr;
dblPtr = malloc (2 * sizeof(double));
```

**Variable Size** displays a variable size of 4 bytes for `dblPtr`, pointing to 16 bytes (2 elements).

## Interpret As

The **Interpret As** command displays a variable as if it were another type. Selecting a type from the Available Types dialog box displays the variable as the new type.

If **Interpret As** does not offer the exact type you want, you can use a watch expression.

## Estimate Number of Elements

The Variables window normally cannot expand variables for which LabWindows/CVI does not have user protection information. You can use this command to estimate the number of elements for a variable. Once you have estimated the number of elements for the variable, you can view the elements in the Variables window. Refer to the *Limitations of User Protection* section in Chapter 1, *LabWindows/CVI Compiler*, of the *LabWindows/CVI Programmer Reference Manual* for more information about variable types that do not have user protection.

## Add Watch Expression (Variables Window)

This command is valid only in the Variables window. **Add Watch Expression** invokes the Add/Edit Watch Expression dialog box from the Variables window. The [Watch Window](#) section earlier in this chapter explains this dialog box.

## Help Menu

---

The **Help** menu for the Variables and Watch windows works the same way as the **Help** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Help Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for information on the **Help** menu.

---

# Array and String Display Windows

This chapter describes the Array and String Display windows. Use these windows to inspect and modify the contents of a single array or string during a breakpoint.



**Note** When strings appear in ASCII format, there is no visual distinction between a space (ASCII 32) and a NUL byte (ASCII 0). You can see the difference by displaying the string in decimal format. In the String Display, you can see beyond the NUL byte by selecting **Options»Display Entire Buffer**.

## Array Display Window

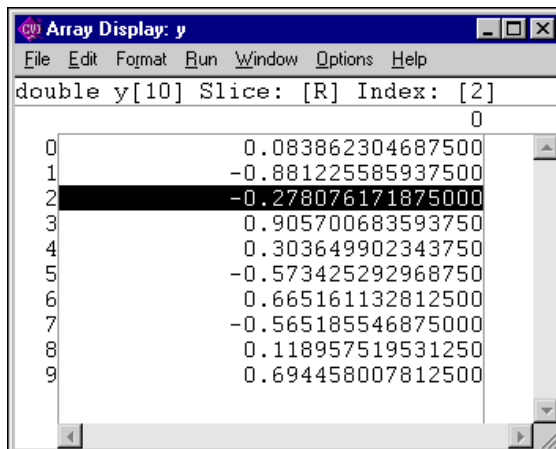
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You can use the Array Display window to view and edit the contents of an array or string.

From the Variables window, use the **View»Array Display** command to invoke the Array Display window for the currently highlighted array. You also can double-click on an array to invoke the Array Display window.

Select **Run»View Variable Value** in a Source window or **Code»View Variable Value** in a Function Panel window to invoke the Array Display window when the name of an array variable is under the keyboard cursor or is in the active function panel control.

Figure 8-1 shows the Array Display window for a single-dimensional array.



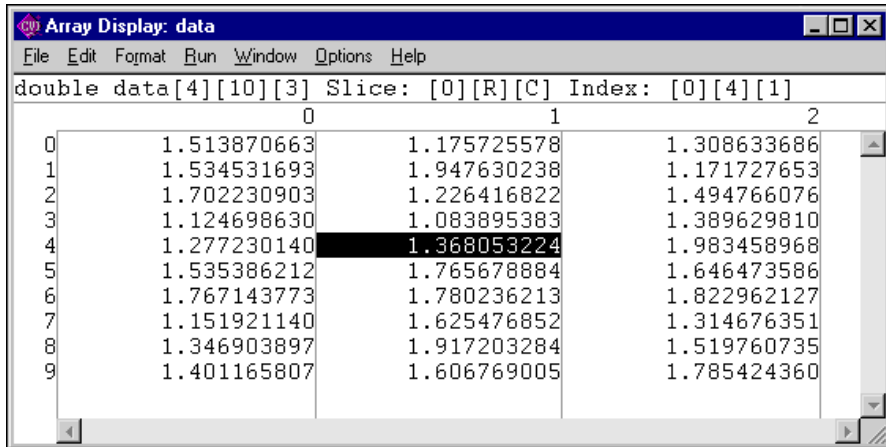
**Figure 8-1.** Array Display for a Double-Precision Array

The Slice indicator shows the dimension that appears. You can display a single-dimensional array by row [R] or column [C] using the **Options»Reset Indices** command.

The Index indicator shows the currently selected element.

## Multi-Dimensional Arrays

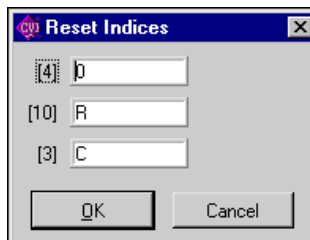
For an array with two or more dimensions, you can specify two dimensions as the rows and columns of the display. You also can specify constant values to use to fix the other dimensions. Use the **Options»Reset Indices** command to specify which plane of the array to display. Figure 8-2 shows the Array Display for a three-dimensional array.



	0	1	2
0	1.513870663	1.175725578	1.308633686
1	1.534531693	1.947630238	1.171727653
2	1.702230903	1.226416822	1.494766076
3	1.124698630	1.083895383	1.389629810
4	1.277230140	1.368053224	1.983458968
5	1.535386212	1.765678884	1.646473586
6	1.767143773	1.780236213	1.822962127
7	1.151921140	1.625476852	1.314676351
8	1.346903897	1.917203284	1.519760735
9	1.401165807	1.606769005	1.785424360

**Figure 8-2.** Array Display for a Three-Dimensional Array

The Array Display window shows a two-dimensional view. By default, the next-to-last dimension appears as rows, the last dimension appears as columns, and the indices of the other dimensions remain constant at 0. Select **Options»Reset Indices** to specify the dimensions you want to display as rows and columns and set the other dimensions to constant values. When you select **Reset Indices** for a three-dimensional array, the Reset Indices dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 8-3.



**Figure 8-3.** Reset Indices Dialog Box for a Three-Dimensional Array

The dialog box shows the size and display index for each array dimension. The letter **R** indicates the dimension displayed as rows, and the letter **C** indicates the dimension displayed as columns. The indices for the remaining dimensions, those dimensions not specified as

either row or column, remain constant at the specified value. For the three-dimensional array shown in Figure 8-2, there is one remaining dimension.

If you enter an invalid character, such as a non-alphanumeric character or any alphabetic character besides R, r, C, or c, an error message appears. Likewise, if you enter an index out of the range of a dimension, an error message appears. Press <Enter> to remove the error message. If you want to close the Reset Indices dialog box without changing the indices, click on **Cancel**.

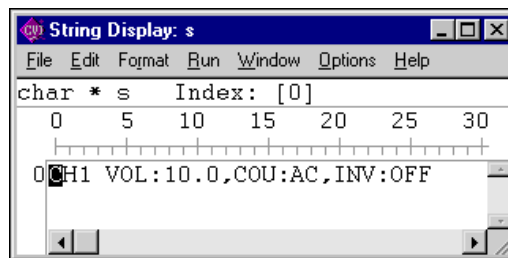
## String Display Window

You can use the String Display window to view and edit the contents of a string variable or string array.

From the Variables window, select **View»String Display** to invoke the String Display window for the currently highlighted string variable. Double-click on a string to invoke the String Display window.

Select **Run»View Variable Value** in a Source window or select **Code»View Variable Value** in a Function Panel window to invoke the String Display window when the name of a string variable is under the keyboard cursor or is in the active function panel control.

Figure 8-4 shows the String Display for a string variable.



**Figure 8-4.** String Display for a String Variable

## Multi-Dimensional String Array

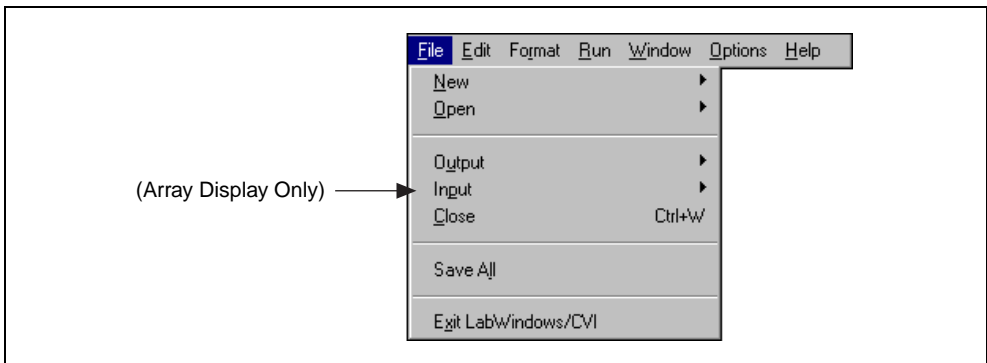
Use the **Reset Indices** command to specify which index of a multi-dimensional string array to use as rows in the String Display window. LabWindows/CVI disables **Reset Indices** when you view a single string variable or a one-dimensional string array. For a string array of two or more dimensions, you can specify which index to use for the rows of the display. The other dimensions remain constant at indices that you specify. When you select **Reset Indices**, the Reset Indices dialog box appears.

The dialog box shows the size and display index for each array dimension. The letter “R” indicates the dimension displayed as rows. The indices for the remaining dimensions remain constant at the specified values.

If you enter an invalid character, or any alphabetic character besides R or r, or an invalid index, an error message appears.

## File Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **File** menu for the Array and String Display windows. Figure 8-5 shows the **File** menu.



**Figure 8-5.** File Menu

### New

The **New** command operates the same way as the **New** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#) for more information.

### Open

The **Open** command operates the same way as the **Open** command in the Project window. Refer to the [File Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#) for more information.

### Output

The **Output** command writes the contents of the window to an ASCII or binary data file on disk. When you select **Output**, a dialog box appears prompting you to specify the name of the file.

## Input (Array Display Window)

This command is valid only in the Array Display window. Use the **Input** command to select an ASCII or binary data file on disk to replace the currently viewed array in memory.

## Close

The **Close** command closes the window.

## Save All

The **Save All** command saves all open files to disk.

## Most Recently Closed Files

For your reference, two lists appear in the **File** menu.

- A list of the four most recently closed files, other than project files
- A list of the four most recently closed project files

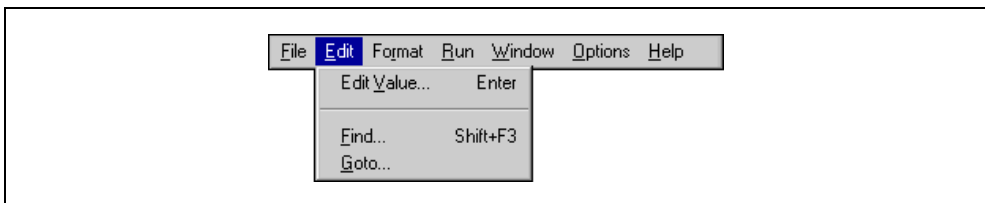
## Exit LabWindows/CVI

The **Exit LabWindows/CVI** command closes the current LabWindows/CVI session. If you have modified any open files since the last save or if any windows contain unnamed files, LabWindows/CVI prompts you to save them to disk.

## Edit Menu for the Array Display Window

---

This section contains a detailed description of the **Edit** menu for the Array Display window. Figure 8-6 shows the **Edit** menu for the Array Display window.



**Figure 8-6.** Edit Menu for the Array Display Window

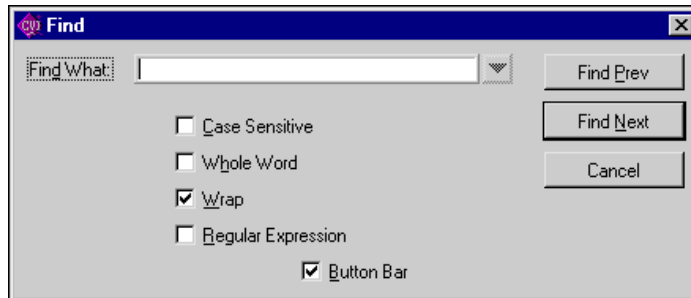
## Edit Value

The **Edit Value** command in the Array Display window invokes a dialog box that you can use to change the value of the selected array element.



## Find

The **Find** command invokes the dialog box shown in Figure 8-7.



**Figure 8-7.** Find Dialog Box in the Array Display Window

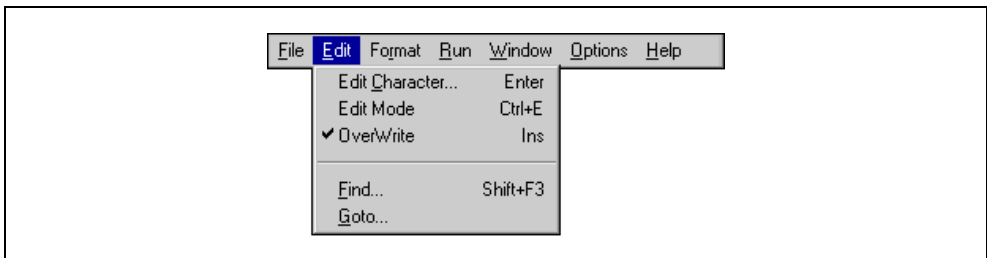
The **Find** command operates the same way as it does in the Variables window, but with fewer options. Refer to the [Edit Menu for the Variables Window](#) section in Chapter 7, [Variables and Watch Windows](#), for information on how to use options in the Find dialog box.

## Goto

The **Goto** command moves the highlight to a particular location in the current string or array plane. When you execute the **Goto** command, a dialog box appears where you can enter the row and column number of the desired location. For a single string, you specify only the column.

## Edit Menu for the String Display Window

This section contains a detailed description of the **Edit** menu for the String Display window. Figure 8-8 shows the **Edit** menu for the String Display window.



**Figure 8-8.** Edit Menu for the String Display Window

## Edit Character

Use the **Edit Character** command in the String Display window to change one character at a time.

## Edit Mode

The **Edit Mode** command places the String Display window in edit mode so you can directly edit the string from the keyboard. This mode is valid only when you select the ASCII display format from the **Format** menu. Also, you can edit one character at a time using the **Options»Edit Character** command.

## Overwrite

Use the **Overwrite** command in the String Display window to toggle between the overwrite and insert modes of editing. The **Overwrite** command has no effect unless you activate the **Edit Mode** command.

## Find

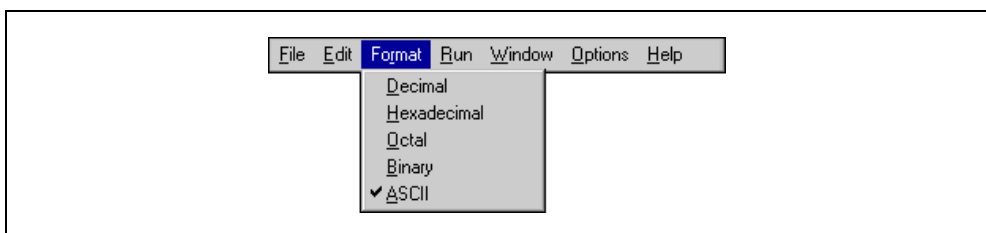
The **Find** command invokes the Find dialog box and operates the same way as it does in the Variables window, but with fewer options. Refer to the [Edit Menu for the Variables Window](#) section in Chapter 7, [Variables and Watch Windows](#), for information on how to use options in the Find dialog box.

## Goto

The **Goto** command operates the same way as it does in the Array Display window. Refer to [Edit Menu for the Array Display Window](#) section earlier in this chapter for more information.

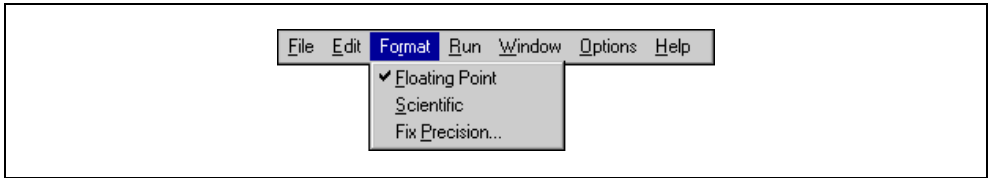
## Format Menu

This section contains a detailed description of the **Format** menu for the Array and String Display windows. Figure 8-9 shows the **Format** menu.



**Figure 8-9.** Format Menu

However, if a real array appears in the Array Display window, the **Format** menu appears as shown in Figure 8-10.



**Figure 8-10.** Format Menu for a Real Array in the Array Display Window

Use the commands in the **Format** menu to choose the format the Array or String Display window uses to display numbers. You can display integers in decimal, hexadecimal, octal, binary, or ASCII format. You can display real arrays in either floating-point or scientific notation.

## Run Menu

---

The **Run** menu contains the following subset of the commands that appear in the **Run** menu of the Source window. Refer to the [Run Menu](#) section of Chapter 5, *Source and Interactive Execution Windows*, for more information.

- **Run Project**
- **Continue**
- **Step Over**
- **Step Into**
- **Finish Function**
- **Terminate Execution**
- **Break at First Statement**
- **Breakpoints**

## Window Menu

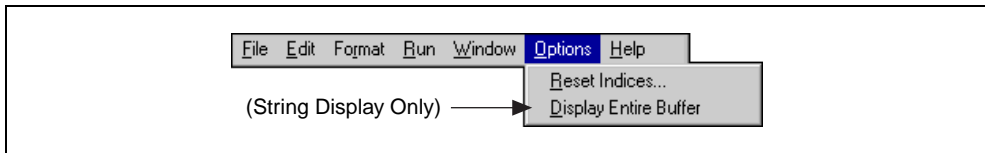
---

The **Window** menu in the Array and String Display windows operates the same way as it does in the Project window. Refer to the [Window Menu](#) section in Chapter 3, *Project Window*, for command descriptions.

## Options Menu

---

This section contains a detailed description of the **Options** menu for the Array and String Display windows. Figure 8-11 shows the **Options** menu.



**Figure 8-11.** Options Menu

### Reset Indices

Use **Reset Indices** in the Array Display window to set which array dimension appears as rows and which array dimension is displayed as columns.

Use **Reset Indices** in the String Display window to set which string array dimension appears as rows.

### Display Entire Buffer (String Display Window)

This command is valid only in the String Display window. By default, the String Display window displays only the characters preceding the first ASCII NUL. To see characters beyond the NUL, select **Options»Display Entire Buffer**.

## Help Menu

---

The **Help** menu for the Array and String Display windows works the same way as the **Help** menu in the Project window. Refer to the [Help Menu](#) section of Chapter 3, [Project Window](#), for information on the **Help** menu.

---

# Source Window

## Keyboard Commands

The following table can help you quickly identify common Source window keyboard commands that are not in the menus.

**Table A-1.** Keyboard Help

Category	Action	Shortcut Key(s)
Finding/Searching	Find again (up)	<Ctrl-F3>
	Find again (down)	<F3>
	Use selected text as search string	<Ctrl-Shift-F3>
	Replace selected text	<Ctrl-F11>
	Replace selected text and find again	<F11>
	Use selected text as replace string	<Ctrl-Shift-F11>
Windowing	Next window	<Ctrl-F6>
	Previous window	<Ctrl-Shift-F6>
	Switch subwindows	<F6>

**Table A-1.** Keyboard Help (Continued)

Category	Action	Shortcut Key(s)
Editing	Change text selection mode	<Ctrl-Ins>
	Toggle insert/overwrite mode	<Ins>
	Delete to end of line	<Ctrl-D>
	Backspace to beginning of word	<Ctrl-Shift-BkSp>
	Cut line to Clipboard	<Ctrl-Y>
	Insert a new line above	<Shift-Enter>
	Insert a new line below	<Ctrl-Enter>
	Select text	<Shift-arrow key>
	Remove text selection	<Esc>
Cursor Movement	Up 1 line	<Up arrow>
	Down 1 line	<Down arrow>
	Left 1 column	<Left arrow>
	Right 1 column	<Right arrow>
	Scroll up 1 line	<Ctrl-Up>
	Scroll down 1 line	<Ctrl-Down>
	Left 1 word	<Ctrl-Left>
	Right 1 word	<Ctrl-Right>
	Top of window	<Ctrl-PgUp>
	Bottom of window	<Ctrl-PgDown>
	Beginning of line	<Home>
	End of line	<End>
	Move up 1 page	<PgUp>
	Move down 1 page	<PgDown>
	Top of file	<Ctrl-Home>
	Bottom of file	<Ctrl-End>

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# Technical Support Resources

This appendix describes the comprehensive resources available to you in the Technical Support section of the National Instruments Web site and provides technical support telephone numbers for you to use if you have trouble connecting to our Web site or if you do not have internet access.

## NI Web Support

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To provide you with immediate answers and solutions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, National Instruments maintains extensive online technical support resources. They are available to you at no cost, are updated daily, and can be found in the Technical Support section of our Web site at [www.ni.com/support](http://www.ni.com/support).

## Online Problem-Solving and Diagnostic Resources

- **KnowledgeBase**—A searchable database containing thousands of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and their corresponding answers or solutions, including special sections devoted to our newest products. The database is updated daily in response to new customer experiences and feedback.
- **Troubleshooting Wizards**—Step-by-step guides lead you through common problems and answer questions about our entire product line. Wizards include screen shots that illustrate the steps being described and provide detailed information ranging from simple getting started instructions to advanced topics.
- **Product Manuals**—A comprehensive, searchable library of the latest editions of National Instruments hardware and software product manuals.
- **Hardware Reference Database**—A searchable database containing brief hardware descriptions, mechanical drawings, and helpful images of jumper settings and connector pinouts.
- **Application Notes**—A library with more than 100 short papers addressing specific topics such as creating and calling DLLs, developing your own instrument driver software, and porting applications between platforms and operating systems.

## Software-Related Resources

- **Instrument Driver Network**—A library with hundreds of instrument drivers for control of standalone instruments via GPIB, VXI, or serial interfaces. You also can submit a request for a particular instrument driver if it does not already appear in the library.
- **Example Programs Database**—A database with numerous, non-shipping example programs for National Instruments programming environments. You can use them to complement the example programs that are already included with National Instruments products.
- **Software Library**—A library with updates and patches to application software, links to the latest versions of driver software for National Instruments hardware products, and utility routines.

## Worldwide Support

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# Glossary

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Prefix	Meaning	Value
n-	nano-	$10^{-9}$
$\mu$ -	micro-	$10^{-6}$
m-	milli-	$10^{-3}$

## A

active window	The window that user input affects at a given moment. The title of an active window is highlighted.
Array Display	A mechanism for viewing and editing numeric arrays.
auto-exclusion	A mechanism that prevents pre-existing lines from executing in the Interactive Execution Window.

## B

binary control	A function panel control that resembles a physical on/off switch and can produce one of two values depending on the position of the switch.
bps	bits per second
breakpoint	An interruption in the execution of a program.
Breakpoint command	A specific command that interrupts the execution of a program.
button	A dialog box item that when selected executes a command associated with the dialog box.

## C

checkbox	A dialog box item that allows you to toggle between two possible options.
Clipboard	A temporary storage area LabWindows/CVI uses to hold text that is cut, copied, or deleted from a work area.
CodeBuilder	The LabWindows/CVI feature that creates code based on a .uir file to connect your GUI to the rest of your program. This code can be compiled and run as soon as it is created.
common control	A control on a Common Control Function Panel that specifies a parameter in all functions associated with a Function Panel window.
compiler define	A command line argument passed to the compiler that defines an identifier as a macro to the preprocessor.
control	An input and output device that appears on a function panel for specifying function parameters and displaying function results.
cursor	The flashing rectangle that shows where you can enter text on the screen. If you have a mouse installed, there is also a mouse cursor.
cursor location indicator	An element of the LabWindows/CVI screen that specifies the row and column position of the cursor in the window.

## D

default command	The action that takes place when <Enter> is pressed and no command is specifically selected. Default command buttons are indicated in dialog boxes with an outline.
dialog box	A prompt mechanism in which you specify additional information needed to complete a command.

## E

entry mode indicator	An element of the LabWindows/CVI screen that indicates the current text mode as either insert or overwrite.
excluded code	Code that is ignored during compilation and execution. Excluded lines of code are displayed in a different color than included lines of code.

## F

.fp file	A file containing information about the function tree and function panels of an instrument module.
function panel	A screen-oriented user interface to the LabWindows/CVI libraries in which you can interactively execute library functions and generate code for inclusion in a program.
Function Panel Editor window	The window in which you build a function panel. Refer to the <i>LabWindows Instrument Driver Developers Guide</i> for more information.
Function Panel window	The window that contains function panels.
function tree	The hierarchical structure in which the functions in a library or an instrument driver are grouped. The function tree simplifies access to a library or instrument driver by presenting functions organized according to the operation they perform, as opposed to a single linear listing of all available functions.
Function Tree Editor window	The window in which you build the skeleton of a function panel file. Refer to the <i>LabWindows Instrument Driver Developers Guide</i> for more information.

## G

generated code box	A text box located at the bottom of the function panel window that displays the function call that corresponds to the current state of the function panel controls.
--------------------	---

**global control** A function panel control that displays the contents of global variables in a library function. Global controls allow you to monitor global variables in a function that the function does not specifically return as results. These are read-only controls that the user cannot alter and do not contribute a parameter to the generated code.

## H

**hex** hexadecimal

**highlight** The way in which input focus is displayed on a LabWindows/CVI screen; to move the input focus onto an item.

## I

**immediate action menu** A menu that has no menu items associated with it and causes a command to execute immediately. An immediate action command is suffixed with an exclamation point (!).

**input control** A function panel control that accepts a value typed in from the keyboard. An input control can have a default value associated with it. This value appears in the control when the panel is first displayed.

**input focus** Displayed on the screen as a highlight on an item, signifying that the item is active. User input affects the item in the dialog box that has the input focus.

**instrument driver** A set of high-level functions for controlling an instrument. It encapsulates many low-level operations, such as data formatting and GPIB, RS-232, and VXI communication, into intuitive, high-level functions. An instrument driver can pertain to one particular instrument or to a group of related instruments. An instrument driver consists of a program and a set of function panels. The program contains the code for the high-level functions. Associated with the instrument program is an include file that declares the high-level functions you can call, the global variables you can access, and the defined constants you can use.

**Interactive Execution window** A LabWindows/CVI work area in which sections of code may be executed without creating an entire program.

## L

list box                      A dialog box item that displays a list of possible choices.

## M

MB                            megabytes of memory

menu                         An area accessible from a menu bar that displays selectable menu items.

## N

new style  
(function definition)        A function definition in which parameters are declared directly in the parameter list.

## O

old style  
(function definition)        A function definition in which parameters are declared outside of the parameter list.

output control                A function panel control that displays a value that the function you execute generates. An output control parameter must be a string, an array, or a reference parameter of type integer, long, single-precision, or double-precision.

## P

Project window                A window containing a list of files your application uses.

prompt command              A command that requires additional information before it can be executed; a prompt command appears on a pull-down menu suffixed with three ellipses (...).

## R

return value control          A function panel control that displays a value returned from a function as a return value rather than as a formal parameter.

**ring control** A function panel control that represents a range of values much like the slide control but displays only a single item in a list rather than displaying the whole list at once as the slide control does. Each item has a different value associated with it. This value is placed in the function call.

## S

**scroll bars** Areas along the bottom and right sides of a window that show your relative position in the file. Scroll bars can be used with a mouse to move about in the window.

**scrollable text box** A dialog box item that displays text in a scrollable display.

**select** To choose the item that the next executed action will affect by moving the input focus (highlight) to a particular item or area.

**shortcut key commands** A combination of keystrokes that provide a means of executing a command without accessing a menu in the menu bar.

**slide control** A function panel control that resembles a physical slide switch. A slide control is a means for selecting one item from a list of options; it inserts a value in a function call that depends on the position of the crossbar on the switch.

**slider** The crossbar on the slide control that determines the value placed in the function call.

**Source window** A LabWindows/CVI work area in which programs are edited and executed.

**Standard Input/Output window** A LabWindows/CVI work area in which textual output to and input from the user take place.

**standard libraries** The LabWindows/CVI User Interface, Analysis, Data Formatting and I/O, GPIB, GPIB-488.2, DDE, TCP, RS-232, Utility, and C system libraries.

**String Display window** A window for viewing and editing string variables and arrays.

## T

**text box** A dialog box item in which text is entered from the keyboard.

**U**

User Interface Editor window      The window in which you build pull-down menus, dialog boxes, panels, and controls and save them to a User Interface Resource (.uir) file.

**V**

Variables window      A window that shows the values of all the currently active variables.

**W**

Watch window      A window that shows the values of user-selectable variables and expressions that are currently active.

window      A working area that supports specific tasks related to developing and executing programs.

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